AL 1 6 9 F

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
C.2
MAY 1 5 1985

May 6, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Deadline for Summer Farm Employment Program applicants 1

1984 Native Farm and Ranch Award Recipients 3

Hog starter feeds produced on farm should contain milk products 5

Alberta Farm Fertilizer Protection Plan application forms available 7

Don't ignore dugout maintenance 9

Adapting field sprayers for fenceline and roadside spraying 11

Condition scoring of beef cattle 13

Custom farming agreement 16

Does pinkeye vaccine prevent pinkeye? 18

New ADC loans officers in Vermilion region 20

Loans officer appointed to Evansburg 22

District agriculturist appointed to Athabasca 23

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

SHOUT
SHARE
IT

May 6, 1985

For immediate release

Deadline for Summer Farm Employment Program applicants

Once again, the Alberta Summer Farm Employment Program, running July 2 through August 31, 1985, will provide valuable farm work experience for Alberta youth.

About 28,000 young people have participated in the program since it started 13 years ago.

The deadline for receipt of applications for employment under the program is May 31, 1985. "The limit of 800 students is expected to be reached well before that date so I urge anyone interested to apply as soon as possible, "says Bernie Yakimyshyn, Alberta Agriculture's coordinator of special employment programs.

Under the program any Alberta farmer can hire a student, provided they and the student are not related. The Alberta government will pay half the student's monthly salary up to a maximum of $300.

Prospective students must be at least 15 years old and they must have the written consent of their parents if they are under 18. Applicants must be residents of Alberta for the last three consecutive years, and they must be legally entitled to work in Canada. They must also be prepared to work for at least one month and to attend one of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety seminars.

Applications from potential employers who wish to participate in the program will be accepted on a first come, first served basis, with priority being given to farmers who did not participate last year.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/agrinews00albe_26

Deadline for Summer Farm Employment Program applicants (cont'd)

Both employee and employer application forms can be obtained from district agriculturists and from Canada farm labor pool offices.

The benefits of the program are two-fold: while young people are learning important skills and information about the world of work, employers are getting extra jobs done well, says Mr. Yakimyshyn.

Further information on the Alberta Summer Farm Employment Program can be obtained from Bernie Yakimyshyn, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, phone 427-2186.

- 30 -

Contact:

Bernie Yakimyshyn
427-2186

May 6, 1985

For immediate release

1984 Native Farm and Ranch Award Recipients

Left to right: LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta Minister of Agriculture; Linda Yellow Face; Willard Yellow Face; Art Potts, AIADC director.

On March 12, 1985, the Willard Yellow Face family were the recipients of a new annual award. The 1984 Native Farm and Ranch Award was presented to them in recognition of their contribution to the agricultural community and their success as ranchers.

The award, sponsored by the Alberta Indian Agricultural Development Corporation (AIADC), was presented by LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

1984 Native Farm and Ranch Award Recipients (cont'd)

Mr. Willard Yellow Face, his wife, Linda, and their five children operate a 460 acre ranch on the Peigan Reserve, located east of Pincher Creek. Willard has a herd of 250 Charolais cattle and 260 acres of forage crops. He recently added irrigation to his operation. Both Willard and Linda are very active in the community and Indian cultural activities.

The AIADC is a non-profit native organization dedicated to the development of agriculture on Alberta Indian reserves. Presently, it serves over 200 reserve farmers and ranchers.

- 30 -

Contact:

Randy Meeks
427-2417

May 6, 1985

For immediate release

Hog starter feeds produced on farm should contain milk products

Milk products in hog starter feed can play a key role in maximizing growth of pigs after weaning, says Sam Jaikaran, Alberta Agriculture's monosgastric nutritionist. He recommends that pork producers with feed mixing facilities use 10 to 20 per cent milk products in their weaner feeds.

Feeding trials conducted at the University of Illinois with starter feeds prepared with and without milk products showed that feeds containing whey powder or dry skim milk were more palatable to newly weaned pigs. Feed consumption was greater in the first two weeks after weaning and the pigs grew at a faster rate.

It's been found that baby pigs digest milk sugar (lactose) and milk proteins (casein and lactalbumins) more efficiently than starches and proteins contained in grain and soybean meal. This is because most of the secretions produced in the digestive tract of baby pigs are those which digest lactose and milk proteins found in sows milk. In nursing piglets only very small amounts of those secretions needed to digest vegetable starch and proteins are produced. After weaning the consumption of solid diets encourages greater secretion of hydrochloric acid and enzymes in the digestive tract for digesting the starch and protein in solid foods. At about eight weeks of age the pattern of digestion approaches that of the adult pig.

"While the digestive system is immature newly weaned pigs should consume milk products as part of their diet because they can be digested easily and used more efficiently," says Mr. Jaikaran.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Hog starter feeds produced on farm should contain milk products (cont'd)

Ten to 20 per cent whey powder in weaner feeds will produce as much as 25 per cent faster growth during the two weeks following weaning. It also has the potential to reduce death losses in severely stressed piglets that may not be eating well.

- 30 -

Contact:

Sam Jaikaran
436-9150

May 6, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Farm Fertilizer Protection Plan application forms available

On April 1, 1985, LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture announced the Alberta Farm Fertilizer Price Protection Plan to assist Alberta farmers reduce crop production costs.

Program conditions and application forms are now available from Alberta Agriculture district offices.

Payment will be based on $50 per tonne of actual nitrogen and $25 per tonne of actual phosphate. For example, the amount of grant that will be paid on one tonne of 11-51-0 would be $18.25 and $41 will be paid on one tonne of 82-0-0. Payments to farmers under this program will exceed the royalties received by the province on natural gas used to manufacture fertilizer.

Applicants must be Canadian citizens or landed immigrants and residents of Alberta at the time of application. A corporation or registered organization must be registered or incorporated in Alberta with its head office in Alberta at the time of application. A non-registered organization must have the majority of its members residing in Alberta to be eligible for the program.

Applicants must farm land within Alberta that is owned, leased, or rented for the purpose of crop and/or forage production. A landowner who has rented or leased land to someone else will not be eligible to apply for the fertilizer grant on this land; it is the lessee or tenant who is eligible to apply.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta Farm Fertilizer Protection Plan application forms available (cont'd)

To be eligible, the fertilizer must be purchased, paid for and used on farmland in Alberta between August 1, 1984, and July 31, 1986. The fertilizer must be purchased from a recognized fertilizer dealer or agent either within or outside Alberta. The applicant must submit documented proof of the fertilizer transactions validated by the dealer or agent. These documents must show the name of the applicant, the name of the fertilizer dealer, the quantity of fertilizer, the grade (formulation) of each kind of fertilizer, date of purchase, and date of payment. Photocopies are not acceptable.

All completed applications and transaction documents must be submitted to Alberta Agriculture district offices before September 30, 1986. An applicant may submit more than one application, but cannot make more than one claim on the same fertilizer purchase. Any applicant falsifying or otherwise providing misleading information will be disqualified.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. Bruce Jeffery
422-5672

May 6, 1985

For immediate release

Don't ignore dugout maintenance

Many farmers often overlook the importance of dugout maintenance, says Archie Archampong, water engineer with Alberta Agriculture. But the problems associated with poor maintenance can be aggravating and expensive.

He recommends that dugouts and their surrounding areas be maintained regularly to keep out contaminants. Construct dykes or ditches to divert contaminated water and fence dugouts to keep animals away. The surrounding area and water courses should be grassed to prevent erosion. Cut the grass periodically to control weeds and maintain a good turf stand. Trees should be kept at least 100 feet (30 metres) from dugouts.

Algae can be controlled by applying one pound of copper sulphate (bluestone) per 100,000 gallons of water in spring, mid-summer, and fall. Clarify muddy water by applying 10 pounds of alum per 100,000 gallons of spray water evenly over the surface.

Aquatic weeds can be controlled with Diquat (Regalone A) or other approved herbicides, applied as a dilute spray when weeds are in an active stage of growth.

Dugouts must be aerated to replenish the oxygen used up by decaying organic matter. This can be done by pumping compressed air through perforated plastic pipes. Water in aerated dugouts stays fresh and clear through the winter even when the dugout is ice covered. Aeration enhances other water treatments, such as chlorination and filtration.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Don't ignore dugout maintenance (cont'd)

The level of iron bacteria can be reduced temporarily with application of soda ash. A chlorination-filtration system at the house can remove iron bacteria and other bacteria that may cause diseases.

Contact your local district agriculturist or regional agricultural engineering technologist for further information on dugout maintenance and water treatment. The following publications are also good sources of information: *Dugout Aeration with Compressed Air, Agdex FS716 (B13); Dugouts for Farm Water Supplies, Agdex FS716 (B30); Dugout Maintenance, Agdex FS716 (B31); Treatment of Dugout Water, Agdex FS716 (D33); Float Suspended Intake, Agdex FS716 (B34); Dugout Float Intake, Agdex FS716 (B35).*

- 30 -

Contact:

Augustus (Archie) Archampong
427-2181

May 6, 1985

For immediate release

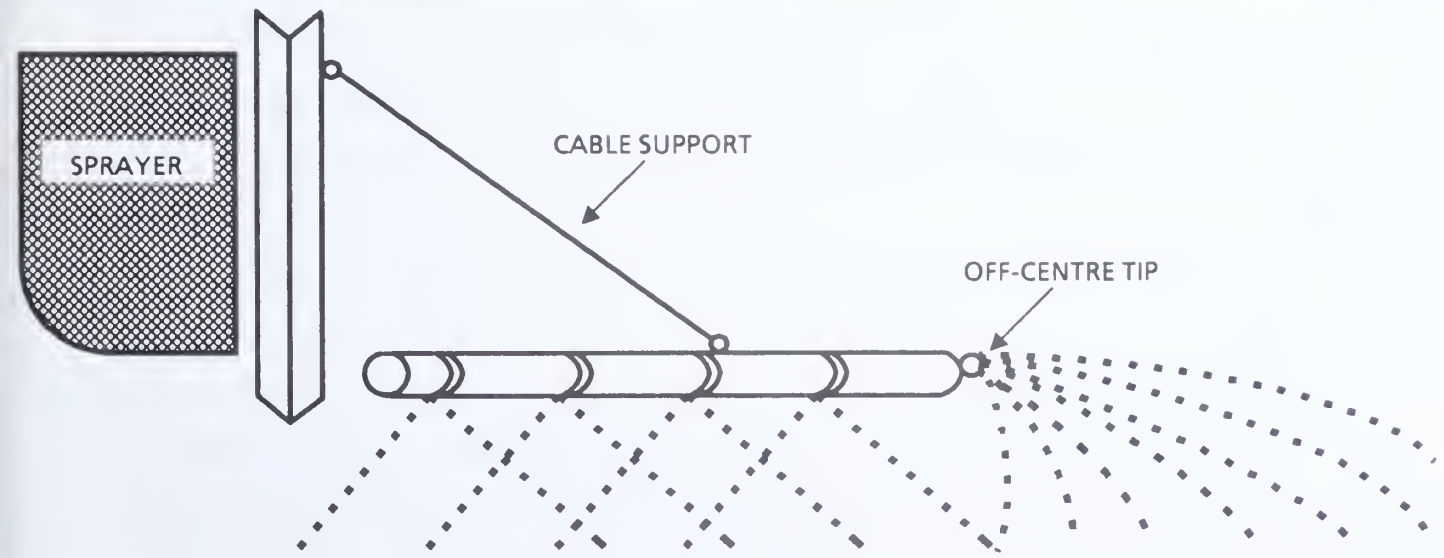
Adapting field sprayers for fenceline and roadside spraying

With the threat of a grasshopper outbreak facing Alberta farmers again this year, many of them will be spraying fencelines and roadside ditches.

Because the booms on regular field sprayers are usually supported on outrigger wheels to maintain boom height and are usually too wide to use on the roadside safely, adaptations are needed to apply insecticides, says Terry Footz of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch.

To adapt a field sprayer for fencelines and ditches, detach the regular boom and install a "homemade" boom of the desired length. This boom would be supported by a chain or cable.

Standard flat fan nozzle tips can be installed along the boom the same as the regular herbicide boom, with an off-centre nozzle tip mounted on the end. This will provide extended coverage into the fenceline.



-(cont'd)-

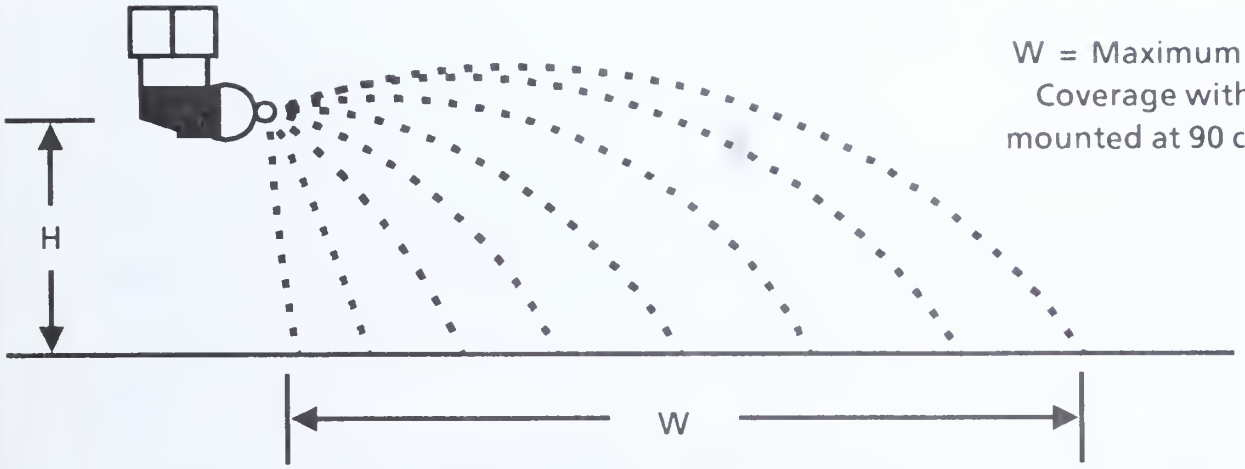
Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Adapting field sprayers for fenceline and roadside spraying (cont'd)

An alternate boomless system can also be used for applying insecticides or herbicides on rough terrain, fencelines and roadsides. This system would consist of one large off-centre nozzle tip mounted on the side of a sprayer and would provide coverage of up to 10 metres depending on nozzle size, pressure, speed of travel, and wind conditions.

EXTRA WIDE FLAT SPRAY COVERAGE



Although the large O.C. nozzles are not usually stocked by retailers they can be ordered through all sprayer accessory outlets that carry Tee Jet nozzles.

Either of these suggested systems can be adapted to any sprayer for less than $100.

Mr. Footz reminds applicators to refer to the chemical label for any safety precautions or protective clothing necessary. For additional information on sprayers and nozzles refer to the Alberta Agriculture publication, *Guide to Weed Control in Alberta, Part III Herbicide Application Equipment, Agdex 744-5.* It's available from district offices and the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Terry Footz
427-5331

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

May 6, 1985

For immediate release

Condition scoring of beef cattle

Good, poor, fair, fat, thin, are all terms used to describe the condition of beef cows. Although each term gives a general idea of the kind of shape a cow is in, they may have different meanings for different people.

It's also important for beef producers to be able to accurately describe the condition of their cows to veterinarians and nutritionists, when they are describing a set of symptoms or asking for advice in planning diets for their herd.

Ross Gould, of Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch, suggests that beef producers consider using a relatively new method of describing cattle called the **Scottish condition scoring system**. The system was developed in Scotland in the early 1970s to ensure that everyone in the cattle industry used the same language when describing livestock.

Right now, when beef producers should be paying special attention to the condition of their cows, the system would be particularly useful, says Mr. Gould.

Research has shown that cows which have been short of feed in the months before calving will be much slower to return to heat. It has also been shown that cows which do not get enough feed in the period from calving to breeding will have a much lower conception rate. The result of having cows in poor condition will be more calves born late in the season and possibly more open cows in the fall of the year.

With these facts in mind, researchers at the East of Scotland College of Agriculture developed this **condition scoring** system for beef cows. Body condition is assessed on a one to five scale; a condition score of 1 is given to animals in very poor condition while a score of 5 is for animals which are grossly fat.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Condition scoring of beef cattle (cont'd)

The cow's condition is assessed by handling two areas to gauge the level of fat cover. These are the loin area between the hip bone and the last rib, and the area around the tail head including the pin bones. The fat cover over the loin area is the major area for condition scoring, especially in thin animals. In cows which score above a 3, however, the bones around the loin can no longer be felt and the amount of fat cover around the tail head can be used to assess the condition score of the cow.

The Scottish system uses the following descriptions to define each score:

Condition Score 1:

The individual spinous processes (short horizontal bones projecting from the spine in the loin area) are sharp to touch and can be easily seen.

Condition Score 2:

The spinous processes can be felt individually, but are not as easily seen, and feel rounded when touched.

Condition Score 3:

Spinous processes can only be felt with very firm pressure and areas over either side of the tail head have some fat cover.

Condition Score 4:

Fat cover around the tail head is easily seen as slight mounds, soft to the touch. The spinous processes cannot be felt.

Condition Score 5:

The bone structure in the loin and tail area is no longer noticeable and the tail head is almost completely buried in fatty tissue.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Condition scoring of beef cattle (cont'd)

The scoring technique is easily learned and Scottish farmers with a bit of experience are now using it with consistent results.

There are three key points in the reproductive cycle of the cow when the cattle producer will want to gauge her condition.

The first is as the cows approach the mating season. United States researchers suggest that cows should score from 2 to 2½ as the breeding season approaches. The second key point is at weaning. If the cow has been on a well managed pasture or range (with no drought!) she may gain a bit over the summer and go into winter in a condition 3. This would allow her to lose a bit during the winter and still be a condition score 2 to 2½ by calving. On the other hand if cows came off a dried up pasture scoring a 1½ to 2 they would have extra feed over winter to ensure they were in condition 2 to 2½ by calving.

Following calving the cow which is milking heavily will probably lose some weight. To ensure high conception and early conception the cows should be targeted for a score of about 2½ again as the breeding season approaches.

More details about the Scottish condition scoring system can be obtained by contacting Ross Gould, head, special projects section, beef cattle and sheep branch, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6; phone 427-5335.

- 30 -

Contact:

Ross Gould
427-5335

May 6, 1985

For immediate release

Custom farming agreement

The farm business management branch of Alberta Agriculture has a publication entitled *Custom Farming Agreement* that is designed to help farmers understand the basic concepts and implications of contracting their operations out to a custom operator.

Such economic factors as increasing equipment costs, labor problems and high interest rates have forced many rural landowners to enter into lease arrangements or to have a portion or all of their farming done by a custom operator. However, the income tax implications of such arrangements are often overlooked by many landlords and tenants.

Income tax implications in farm property transfers are such that the rollover provisions can be forfeited if the land is farmed on a cash or crop-share basis. However, with a proper custom farming agreement, the rollover provision is maintained because a landowner is considered to be actively farming and to be assuming the risks of the business. On the other hand, if doing custom work accounts for a major portion of farm earnings, then the business may be classified as a business other than farming.

It became apparent when this topic was researched that information on custom farming agreements was extremely limited and a format was necessary to meet the wide variety of farming operations within the province. Hence, it was decided to develop a basic agreement with attached schedules outlining the specific operations to be performed.

Custom Farming Agreement consists of three main areas. The first deals with the various factors that should be considered by both parties and explains how to use an agreement. The second contains a sample agreement with a brief explanation of the terms used in the contract. The final section consists of a series of work schedules for the various

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Custom farming agreement (cont'd)

operations that could be contracted out.

The format is designated so that both parties will:

(a) sit down and decide what work is to be done;

(b) complete the appropriate schedules;

(c) fill out the agreement itemizing the schedule to be used; and

(d) review the conditions attached to the agreement.

Copies of *Custom Farming Agreement Agdex 817-10* can be obtained from district agriculturists, the Publications Office, Alberta Agriculture, J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO.

- 30 -

Contact:

Harry Warne
556-4244

or

Gerd Andres
556-4241

May 6, 1985

For immediate release

Does pinkeye vaccine prevent pinkeye?

There are now two pinkeye vaccines available to cattlemen. Both manufacturers claim their vaccine is effective in preventing and reducing the problems in cattle caused by pinkeye.

The cause of pinkeye is generally accepted to be the bacteria *Moraxella bovis*. This bacteria does not seem to be able to cause the disease unless certain "triggering factors" are present. These triggering factors which cause irritation to the eye include wind, dust, pollen, flies, sunlight, and long grass. After the eye becomes irritated, *Moraxella bovis* causes the typical signs of tears running down the face, blinking, sensitivity to light and inflammation of the eye itself.

During the summer of 1984, Alberta Agriculture, along with cooperating cattlemen, conducted a project to evaluate one of the available vaccines. Ten trials were conducted in central and southern Alberta involving a total of 2,132 spring calves and long yearlings. Half of the cattle were given a single injection of vaccine in three trials and in the other seven trials, half were given two injections (double vaccination).

There was no significant difference in the treatment rate for pinkeye between the control cattle (unvaccinated) and the vaccinated groups for either single or double vaccinations. There was also no difference in the average daily gains of the vaccinated and control groups. There was, however, a significant effect on gain if the cattle developed pinkeye. Animals treated for pinkeye had a 10.4 per cent reduction in average daily gain compared to non-treated cattle.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Does pinkeye vaccine prevent pinkeye? (cont'd)

The study concluded that the vaccine tested was not effective in preventing pinkeye. However, pinkeye is a very economically significant disease and effective control measures would be very beneficial. Until these are found, cattlemen should be cautious about accepting some of the claims made in advertisements. For further information please contact Dr. Ray Fenton, health management branch, Agriculture Regional Centre, Bag Service 1, Airdrie, Alberta, T0M 1B0, phone 948-6868, or your local veterinarian.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. Ray Fenton
948-6868

May 6, 1985

For immediate release

New ADC loans officers appointed in Vermilion region

Peter Ignatiuk, ADC's regional manager for the Vermilion region, has announced the appointment of four new loans officers: Alice Curry at the Vermilion office, Brian Johnson at Wainwright, Walter Lochansky at Smoky Lake and Bob Smook at the Vegreville office.

Alice Curry was raised on a farm in Nova Scotia and holds a B.Sc. in agriculture majoring in agricultural economics. Ms. Curry joined ADC as a trainee loans officer in Red Deer in June 1981 and in January 1982 became a loans officer at Lacombe.

Brian Johnson was born and raised in Edmonton and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1980 with a B.Sc. in animal science. Mr. Johnson worked with an Edmonton feed company and as a district agriculturist-in-training at Lloydminster before joining ADC as a loans officer in Drumheller in 1982.

Walter Lochansky comes to ADC with a farm background and 17 years of lending experience as a credit advisor with the Farm Credit Corporation. During his career with FCC, Mr. Lochansky worked throughout Alberta. He also worked for a short time as a loans verification officer with Alberta Tourism and Small Business.

Bob Smook was raised on a farm in the Vegreville area and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1980 with a B.Sc. in agriculture specializing in animal science. Mr. Smook worked as a feed representative with Federated Cooperatives Ltd., where he

- (cont'd) -

New ADC loans officers appointed in Vermilion region (cont'd)

gained experience in nutrition and financial management of intensified livestock operations.

He is a member of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists.

- 30 -

Contact:

Peter Ignatiuk
853-2811

May 6, 1985

For immediate release

Loans officer appointed to Evansburg

Lyle Roberts, the Agricultural Development Corporation's (ADC) regional manager at Barrhead, has announced the appointment of Joseph Byciuk as loans officer at Evansburg.

Mr. Byciuk has worked as an industrial development officer with the interest shielding program for Alberta Tourism and Small Business and branch manager with the Royal Bank of Canada.

- 30 -

Contact:

Joseph Byciuk
727-3673

May 6, 1985

For immediate release

District agriculturist appointed to Athabasca

Curtis Weeks, a 1984 University of Manitoba plant science graduate has been appointed as district agriculturist-in-training at the Alberta Agriculture Athabasca office. His appointment, announced by John Tackaberry, regional director, northwest region, was effective April 15, 1985.

Mr. Weeks will work under the supervision of Gary Berger, senior district agriculturist.

Mr. Weeks is from a mixed farm near Snowflake, Manitoba. He spent several summers working with the Pembina-Manitou Weed Control Board and recently spent two months working at Alberta Agriculture's Ryley office.

- 30 -

Contact:

Curtis Weeks
674-8264

AL1. 691

AGRI-NEWS

C2

May 13, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

1985 Fresh Vegetable Production Incentive Program announced 1
The Perfect Pulses 4
Watch for new weeds. 5
Excessive weight loss in lactating sows impairs reproductive performance. 6
Production pointers for growing "Samson", a semi-dwarf barley variety. 8
Wider nozzle spray angle recommended 11
Magnetic water treatment devices don't work 14
Farmers urged to be cautious when handling pesticide-treated seed 15
Livestock manifest or horse permit required when transporting horses. 16
Alternative crops situation and outlook 17
Egg summary and outlook. 18
Chicken summary and outlook 20
New AADC loans officers appointed. 21

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

May 13, 1985

For immediate release

1985 Fresh Vegetable Production Incentive Program announced

On May 2, 1985, LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture, announced a temporary incentive program to stimulate commercial fresh vegetable production in Alberta in 1985.

Under the 1985 Alberta Fresh Vegetable Production Incentive Program, eligible producers will receive direct grants equal to approximately one-third of their production costs. The total cost of the one-year program is estimated at $1.2 million.

"Many fresh vegetable producers located across the province faced considerable hardship due to last year's early winter weather," said the minister. "Unfortunately, for these producers crop insurance was simply not available."

"As a result, because of the fresh vegetable producers' heavy crop losses last fall, there's a possibility that some producers might stop production this year. That concern, along with the fact that this sector is an important contributor to Alberta's food self-sufficiency, led us to take steps to help the industry through a difficult period," said Mr. Fjordbotten.

Fresh vegetable production in Alberta was worth approximately $5.6 million last year. Crops are usually grown for sale to wholesale and retail outlets in the province. Local fresh vegetable production also offers consumers an alternative to imported vegetables.

"We hope this program will encourage fresh vegetable producers to maintain and possibly expand their production in 1985," said the minister.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

1985 Fresh Vegetable Production Incentive Program announced (cont'd)

"A major effort has also been made to establish an all-risk crop insurance policy for fresh vegetable production. Progress has been made and it now appears a policy for fresh vegetable producers will be offered by the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation in 1986. Producers will then be in a position to insure their own production, eliminating the need for interim measures like this incentive program," stated Mr. Fjordbotten.

To be eligible for the incentive program producers must grow a minimum of two acres of each commodity identified, and be licensed by the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board. The first two acres of each crop grown by each producer are not eligible for incentive payments.

All fresh vegetable producers must register with Alberta Agriculture before June 15, 1985, stating the acres to be seeded. An inspection will be conducted by Alberta Agriculture prior to harvest to determine the actual number of eligible acres. The use of sound crop production management practices will be a criterion for determining eligibility.

Vegetables grown for processing or in a greenhouse are not eligible for payments under the program. Also, a producer may not claim assistance from both the Fresh Vegetable Production Incentive Program and Alberta Agriculture's Market Garden Development Program in 1985.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

1985 Fresh Vegetable Production Incentive Program announced (cont'd)

Grant payments will be issued around September 1, and will be based on the following rates:

Crop	Payment per acre
Cabbage	$500
Carrots	$300
Cauliflower	$500
Onions	$500
Parsnips	$440
Pumpkins	$300
Red Beets	$260
Rutabagas	$300

An estimated 3,000 acres of fresh vegetable crops will be eligible for incentive payments.

Further information about the 1985 Fresh Vegetable Production Incentive Program can be obtained from the Alberta Horticultural Research Center in Brooks, telephone, 362-3391; the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre in Edmonton, telephone, 973-3351; and the Alberta Fresh Vegetable Marketing Board in Lethbridge, telephone, 327-0447.

- 30 -

Contact:

Tom Krahn
427-5341

May 13, 1985

For immediate release

The Perfect Pulses

Each year over 30,000 acres of pulses are grown in Alberta. Pulses are edible seeds of annual legumes such as beans, peas, and lentils.

To promote their products domestically, the Pulse Growers Association of Alberta have produced a new recipe booklet containing interesting and unusual ways to prepare beans, peas, and lentils.

Frank Spanbauer, association president, is enthusiastic about the new cookbook. "Consumers in Alberta and the rest of Canada should learn more about these inexpensive and nutritious foods. Through promotion and education the association hopes to increase the consumption of pulses domestically," he says.

All pulses are inexpensive and a good source of protein. They provide valuable nutrients including iron, calcium, and folate and are a good source of dietary fibre, says Lorraine Rea, Alberta Agriculture's crop and horticulture officer.

Alberta varieties of pulses sold in supermarkets or bulk in specialty stores include Great Northern, Navy, Pink, Pinto, and Red Mexican Beans; yellow and green peas; and green lentils.

To order this colorful and exciting booklet free of charge, please write to: Pulse Growers Association of Alberta, A.D.A. Agriculture Centre, Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 4C7, the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, or contact Alberta Agriculture district offices.

- 30 -

Contact:

Lorraine Rea 427-7366 or Blair Roth 381-5127

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

May 13, 1985

For immediate release

Watch for new weeds

Shaffeek Ali of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch is asking farmers to watch for any unusual or uncommon plants which could be weeds.

"This is the best time to catch any problem weeds that may have been brought into the province along with the hay needed to cope with last summer's drought," says Mr. Ali.

Hay was transferred from British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, and from within the province, mainly to southern Alberta.

Anyone spotting strange-looking plants should dig a sample and take them to the local district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman. The samples will then be sent on to one of Alberta Agriculture's plant industry labs for identification.

- 30 -

Contact:

Shaffeek Ali
427-5324

May 13, 1985

For immediate release

Excessive weight loss in lactating sows impairs reproductive performance

The genetic potential of sows on many commercial farms may never be realized because of breeding problems caused by excessive weight loss during lactation, says Sam Jaikaran, Alberta Agriculture's monogastric nutritionist.

Sows that experience extreme weight losses are usually those which raise large litters and are usually the best animals in the herd. When excessive weight loss leads to breeding problems over consecutive litters, sows may be culled prematurely and some of the best genetic material may be lost from the herd.

Some amount of weight loss in lactating sows is normal, i.e., 10 to 20 kilograms, depending on size. The potential for weight loss depends on the number of piglets weaned and the length of time the sow suckles her piglets. Since milk production peaks in the third week after farrowing, weight loss tends to be greater then than in the first three weeks of lactation. Animals most likely to suffer excessive weight loss are first litter gilts and sows raising 10 or more piglets.

The main effect of excessive weight loss during lactation is anestrus following weaning. This results in an increase in the weaning to conception interval and upsets a well-planned farrowing schedule. In addition, the subsequent litter may have fewer pigs born.

Weight loss during lactation occurs if sows do not consume enough protein and/or energy to meet the needs of milk production, reports Mr. Jaikaran. This occurs if the level of feed intake is low or if the content of energy and protein in the lactation feed are below requirements. Of the two nutrients, lack of adequate energy intake is most important.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Excessive weight loss in lactating sows impairs reproductive performance (cont'd)

"Improving energy intake in lactating sows by higher feed intake or with higher energy content of the ration should aid in preventing excessive weight loss and enhance rebreeding performance," said Mr. Jaikaran.

- 30 -

Contact:

Sam Jaikaran
436-9150

For immediate release

Production pointers for growing "Samson", a semi-dwarf barley variety

Unlike its namesake, "Samson", a new semi-dwarf barley variety licensed this year is not known for its size. It is, however, known for its high grain yield at the expense of excessive straw.

Jim Helm, head of research at Alberta Agriculture's Field Crops Branch in Lacombe, says that to successfully grow semi-dwarf barley and get the higher yields, certain attention must be paid to management detail.

Semi-dwarf plants are different from normal plants in that each internode is shortened slightly. This means that from germination until maturity the plant grows more slowly or is shorter. This type of plant will not be as competitive as one which will grow more rapidly, taking in nutrients to produce leaves and stems at a faster rate.

Samson is resistant to lodging which is most often the single limiting factor to high yields in standard height varieties with relatively weak straw. However, if lodging does not occur in standard height varieties, Samson will not be higher yielding than the best of the feed varieties under similar nutrient conditions.

Dr. Helm recommends that growers of semi-dwarf barley follow these pointers to ensure maximum yields:

1. If possible, treat seed with a recommended fungicide formulation and ensure the seed is clean and of high germination.
2. Seed as early as possible in the spring, preferably between May 1 and May 15.
3. Make sure the seedbed is firm and of good tilth. The seed should be placed between one and two inches deep. Seeding rate should be between one and one and a half bushels per

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Production pointers for growing "Samson", a semi-dwarf barley variety (cont'd)

acre. The seed of Samson is short and round, therefore the number of seeds per bushel is relatively high compared to larger seeded feed varieties and two-row varieties. Do not seed heavily.

4. Soil fertility should be relatively high. Best results from fall-applied fertilizer will be with banding at about the four-inch depth. Available nitrogen should be upward of 100 lb per acre. P_2O_5 should range between 65 and 80 lb per acre depending on method of application, and K_2O should be 300 lb per acre with 25 to 30 lb of 0-0-60 applied with the seed. If applying large amounts of animal manure, soil tests may be more necessary to determine fertilizer balance. The approach, of "the more, the better", does not apply when it comes to fertilizer application. Fertilizer balance is of greatest importance to ensure the maximum yield and maturity balance. If in doubt, soil test. Remember, a plant can only produce to its most limiting factor.

5. Weed control is extremely important in a semi-dwarf variety because it lacks a natural competitive advantage. Weed growth can be arrested by narrow row spacing of the drill or cross seeding to ensure equal ground cover. However, nothing takes the place of proper cultural and chemical weed control. Spray on time, mix your chemicals properly and at the proper concentrations, and be prepared to spray more than once if weeds become a problem or the first application does not work properly.

6. If swathing, do it when the crop moisture is at 32 per cent to 35 per cent. A small swath does not mean low yields. There is a great amount of head to straw in the swath especially if six to eight inches of stubble is left.

If direct combining, take it a little tough and dry it (18 degrees). The straw starts to break down when the grain gets dryer than 16 degrees. This can be especially important in the windy areas of the province.

- (cont'd) -

Production pointers for growing "Samson", a semi-dwarf barley variety (cont'd)

7. Watch your combine speed and adjustments since the seed of Samson is short and plump and flows easily. When yields are high, however, it's easy to overload the combine resulting in seed going out the back.

- 30 -

Contact:

Jim Helm
782-4641

May 13, 1985

For immediate release

Wider nozzle spray angle recommended

For over 40 years the standard tapered-edge flat fan nozzle tip has been used for spraying herbicides and continues to be the only nozzle type recommended by all herbicide manufacturers.

However, Alberta farmers have a number of choices when it comes to the width of nozzle tip they can use. "Of these, the new 110-degree nozzle tip is the best," says Terry Footz, equipment specialist with Alberta Agriculture's weed control branch.

Initially, farmers used a flat fan tip that produced a 65-degree spray pattern. The correct height above the target for this nozzle tip was about 56 cm (22 inches) to allow for the correct overlap of spray patterns.

As technology progressed, spray drift was recognized as a problem and the wider-angle 80-degree nozzle tip became the recommended standard. This nozzle should be used at 46 cm (18 inches) above the target using 275 kPa pressure to provide a uniform spray pattern along the length of the boom. The lower boom height allows the spray to enter into the crop canopy more quickly, reducing the potential for drift.

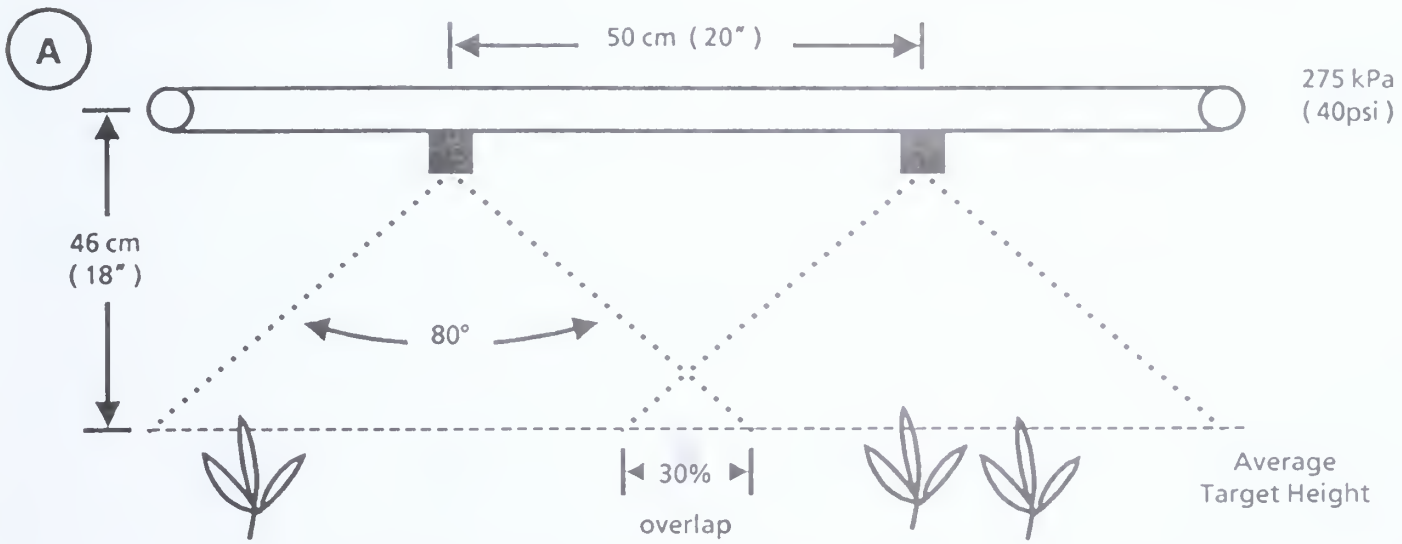
When 80-degree nozzles are set at the correct height above the target, the spray patterns will overlap about 30 per cent at 275 kPa pressure (40 psi).

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Wider nozzle spray angle recommended (cont'd)

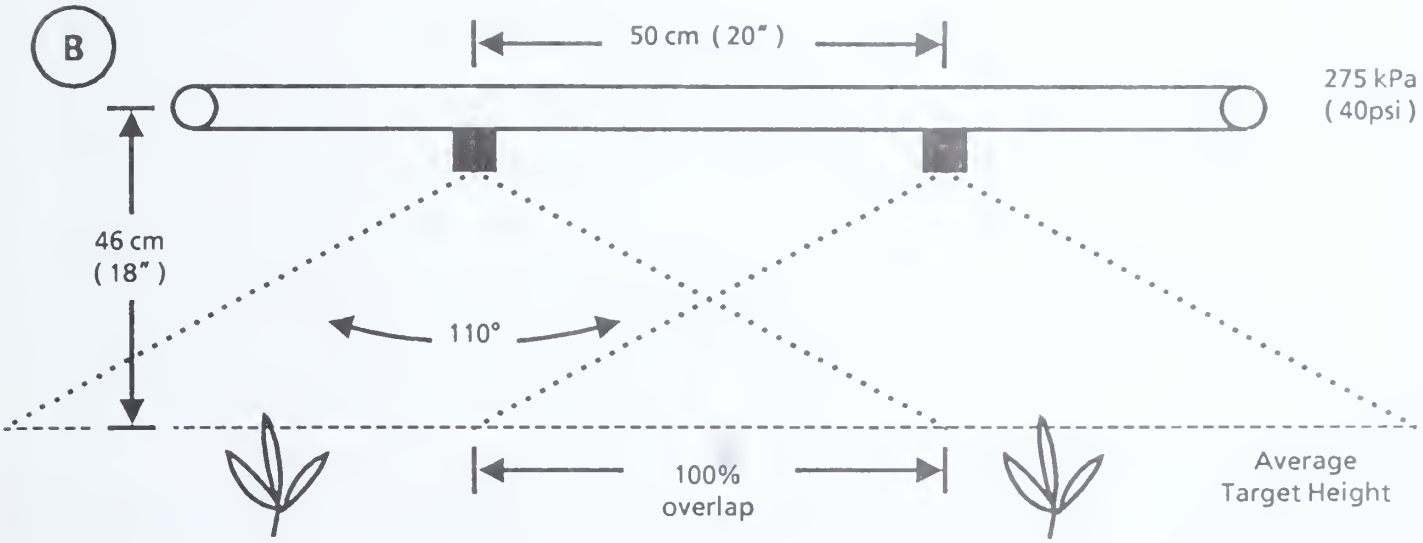


Under field conditions a wide variation in boom height will occur due to weed height differences, uneven terrain and excessive travel speed. Variations in height along the same boom may vary by 10 to 15 cm causing very little or no overlap in areas where the boom is too low.

To overcome the possibility of having misses in the field, the tapered-edge flat fan nozzle with a spray angle of 110-degrees is recommended. When the 110-degree nozzle tip is set at 46 cm (18 inches) above the target at 275 kPa (40 psi) with nozzle spacing of 50 cm (20 inches), the spray pattern from one nozzle extends to the middle of the adjacent spray pattern. This 100 per cent overlap will allow for boom height variations to occur without creating misses between nozzle patterns.

- (cont'd) -

Wider nozzle spray angle recommended (cont'd)



The 110-degree nozzle tips are available in brass, nylon, stainless steel, alumax, and kematal. Alumax and kematal tips are reported to wear even longer than stainless steel according to studies conducted by Manitoba Agriculture engineers.

- 30 -

Contact:

Terry Footz
427-5331

For immediate release

Magnetic water treatment devices don't work

The idea of using a non-chemical dependent water treatment device that uses virtually no energy to treat problem water is too good to be true, says Archie Archampong, water engineer with Alberta Agriculture.

Magnetic water treatment devices don't work according to a four-month study conducted by Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch. Similar tests carried out independently by at least seven research associates confirm this.

Although this has been known for over 30 years, dealers and manufacturers continue to be successful in selling the units to unsuspecting consumers. Here are some of the unfounded claims made by dealers to promote sales:

- Removal and prevention of scale deposits in water plumbing systems.
- A conditioning effect similar to chemical water softening.
- Removal of taste and odor problems (linked to alleged increase in dissolved oxygen content).
- Alteration of mineral stains (e.g., iron staining) to provide easy cleaning.

For further information on magnetic water treatment contact your local district agriculturist or your regional agricultural engineering technologist.

- 30 -

Contact:

Augustus (Archie) Archampong
427-2181

For immediate release

Farmers urged to be cautious when handling pesticide-treated seed

The insecticides lindane, carbofuran, and terbufos are commonly used to control wireworms and flea beetles in cereal and oilseed crops.

"However, these are fairly toxic chemicals and farmers should take certain precautions when working with them," says Dr. M. Hussain of Alberta Agriculture's plant industry division.

Lindane is sold in combination with one or two fungicides in dual-purpose formulations. These are designed to control wireworms or flea beetles and plant diseases at the same time. The formulations are available in liquid or dust form. Carbofuran and terbufos are sold in granular formulations and are meant to control flea beetles.

Usually these chemicals are mixed with the seed with an auger, in a cement mixer, or in the drill box prior to planting. Farmers are encouraged to do this in a well-ventilated area and should wear a respirator, goggles, and rubber gloves. Chemical and seed should not be mixed with bare hands; use a paddle or a stick.

Lindane-treated seed can be purchased from most seed cleaning plants in Alberta. Bags are labelled with the name of the treatment chemical. Farmers should wear rubber gloves when handling this treated seed, advises Dr. Hussain.

Drill boxes, cement mixers, and augers should not be cleaned out with bare hands.

Treated seed should not be fed to cattle or domestic animals but should be buried.

Farmers who've been over-exposed to these chemicals, and begin to experience symptoms such as chest tightness, tremors, blurred vision, and nausea should obtain medical attention as soon as possible.

- 30 -

Contact:

M. Hussain
427-4438

May 13, 1985

For immediate release

Livestock manifest or horse permit required when transporting horses

Bob Coleman, Alberta Agriculture's horse specialist at Edmonton, reminds horse owners that they require either a livestock manifest or a horse permit to accompany their horses when transporting them to a destination, other than a market, which is more than 16 kilometres distant. Owners without either of these could be fined up to $50.

Horse permits are available from local brand inspectors who inspect the horses and issue a permit at a cost of $1 per horse. Livestock manifests are available from district agriculturists, brand inspectors and the Horse Industry Branch, 9th Floor, O.S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 4P2 or 205, 2003 McKnight Boulevard, Calgary, Alberta, T2E 6L2.

- 30 -

Contact:

Bob Coleman
436-9150

May 13, 1985

For immediate release

Alternative crops situation and outlook

The area to be seeded to alternative crops in western Canada is expected to decline by about 10 per cent in 1985, says Fred Boyce, Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst.

Decreases are expected in buckwheat, canary seed, grain corn, lentils, mustard, and sunflower seed acreages. Modest increases are anticipated for dry beans and fababeans with the dry pea area essentially unchanged.

Initial contract prices offered by grain companies are basically unchanged for dry peas, canary seed, and buckwheat. Price quotes for lentils, fababeans, and confectionery sunflowers are higher than a year ago. Mustard contract prices, on the other hand, are slightly lower. Despite the generally favorable prices, acreages are not expected to match last year, partly due to high seed costs for some crops, disappointing yields during the past two seasons, and increases in the traditional crops, reports Mr. Boyce.

Prospects for the coming season are favorable. A very small carryover for most of their crops should keep prices firm throughout the summer and into the fall.

- 30 -

Contact:

Fred Boyce
427-5383

May 13, 1985

For immediate release

Egg summary and outlook

Canadian table egg sales continued to run below levels of a year ago in the first quarter of 1985. The domestic processing industry, however, has greatly increased its egg usage.

David Hope, dairy and poultry analyst with Alberta Agriculture, reports that Canadian egg sales are expected to run close to year ago levels for the remainder of 1985 and prices are not expected to change significantly.

Deliveries of Alberta eggs to grading stations from January to March were down almost seven per cent from the level of one year ago. This is a continuation of the trend started by the January 1984 quota cut. The movement of eggs from outside Alberta was up significantly from the comparable period in each of the past several years. There was also a sharp increase in the inward movement of graded eggs. The total supply of eggs in Alberta was almost equal to that in the first quarter of 1984.

The disappearance of table eggs in Alberta continued at a disappointingly low level. Although March figures were encouraging, disappearance was sharply down most of the last 12 months.

Alberta producers received $1.04 per dozen for grade A large eggs in March. This is $0.03 per dozen below the price in March 1984. The wholesale price for A large eggs ranged from $1.32 per dozen to $1.39 per dozen in Edmonton during March and retail specials below $1 per dozen were seen. The average retail price was approximately $1.40 per dozen for A large.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Egg summary and outlook (cont'd)

Canadian egg production is expected to be slightly under year ago levels in the second quarter (April to June) and may be slightly above year ago levels for the remainder of the year. No dramatic changes in producer costs are expected so prices should remain relatively stable.

In Alberta, the movement of eggs into the province will remain large during 1985.

- 30 -

Contact:

David Hope
427-5382

For immediate release

Chicken summary and outlook

The Canadian chicken industry continued to grow in the first quarter of 1985 with total chicken disappearance up almost 8 per cent from the same period a year ago, reports David Hope, Alberta Agriculture's dairy and poultry analyst. Stocks of chicken meat in storage, however, remain high. Production in the quarter (January to March) was up 18.2 per cent from one year ago and was significantly above the quota level.

The storage stocks are expected to remain high with a gradual reduction over the next six months. For a reduction to more normal levels to occur, total disappearance must continue to expand at a rate of 8 per cent per annum.

In Alberta, chicken production in the first three months of the year was just slightly greater than that of a year ago. Total production is up about 2.3 per cent. Roaster production was up the most and the production of birds below one kilogram was below 1984 levels.

The disappearance of chicken was up over seven per cent in Alberta, just slightly below the national rate of increase. This has allowed the amount of chicken held in storage within the province to be reduced to a more normal level.

Chicken prices in Alberta were under pressure because of the increased production in the rest of Canada. At the end of March, Alberta producers received $1.13 per kilogram for broilers. Roasters were priced at $1.03½ per kilogram.

- 30 -

Contact:

David Hope
427-5382

May 13, 1985

For immediate release

New AADC loans officers appointed

Frank J. Blush, regional manager for the Alberta Agricultural Development Corporation (AADC) at Fairview has announced the appointment of two new loans officers.

James G. Tower was appointed temporary loans officer at the Grande Prairie office effective April 1, 1985. Mr. Tower was born in Regina, Saskatchewan and raised in White Rock, British Columbia. He has studied business management through the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto. Before joining AADC, Mr. Tower worked as a farm credit representative for John Deere Ltd., covering Alberta and British Columbia. He has also worked for Case Credit Corporation as well as a number of other financial institutions.

Sheldon R. Gray joined AADC's Peace River office as loans officer on April 1, 1985. Born and raised on a mixed farm in Manitoba, Mr. Gray is a 1983 University of Manitoba graduate. He holds a B.Sc. in agriculture majoring in agricultural economics. Mr. Gray has worked as a field chemical research assistant for Chemagro and as an elevator manager trainee for Cargill.

- 30 -

Contact:

James G. Tower or Sheldon R. Gray
538-5280 624-6170

AGRI-NEWS

AL.1.691

CANADIANA
JUN 18 1985

May 20, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Saskatoon jelly made in Alberta 1
Agricultural forecasts for Alberta 3
Herbicide Recommendation Program 5
4-H Wildlife Habitat contest 6
Winter injury to evergreens 8
Water hemlock poisoning in cattle. 10
Take precautionary measures when working with pesticides 12
Increasing the energy intake of sows during lactation 14
How to select physical record-keeping software for your farm computer 16
Shock chlorinate your water system this spring. 18
New irrigation specialist appointed 20
New ADC loans officers appointed - Red Deer region 21

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

May 20, 1985

For immediate release

Saskatoon jelly made in Alberta

Last winter, Len Paulovich, a farmer, entrepreneur and small fruit grower from Manning, spent several weeks in the test kitchen at the Food Processing Development Centre at Leduc, Alberta.

With the help of the centre's food specialists, Mr. Paulovich turned his 1984 saskatoon harvest into jelly - 11,400 jars, to be exact. Now that jelly is being test marketed in 40 Safeway stores and selected Peace Country outlets under the brand name White Blossom Berry Farms.

Mr. Paulovich is optimistic that the jelly will find a niche in the Alberta market, although the production of the test batch has been long, involved, and not necessarily profitable.

While 11,400 jars may sound like a great quantity to the average home jelly-maker, in the commercial world it's just a drop in the vacuum kettle. As a result, the test batch was very expensive. Jars alone cost almost $4 per dozen; bonnets and labels had to be applied by hand, a task that kept six people busy for five days.

The growing and marketing of saskatoons and other native fruit is an idea that's been around for more than 10 years. Back in 1974 Mr. Paulovich and three other Peace Country growers each planted an acre of saskatoons, rose hips, and chokecherries, a project encouraged by Alberta Agriculture.

Over the years new varieties from the Beaverlodge research station were tested; Mr. Paulovich says the variety Smoky has proven to be the best producer for him.

By 1979 the Pauloviches found they had "more berries than pickers", and started a U-pick operation. In 1982 the production horizons for small fruit widened considerably with the loan of a fruit harvester from the Brooks Horticultural Research Center. The mechanical

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch
Phone: (403) 427-2121

Saskatoon jelly made in Alberta (cont'd)

harvester could pick a ton of berries in about four hours, compared with the five pounds a person could pick in 15 to 20 minutes, explains Mr. Paulovich.

Two years ago, Mr. Paulovich and a fellow farmer from Fairview, Doug Roy, trucked the saskatoons to Summerland, B.C. for processing into syrup. But, the transportation and processing costs proved to be prohibitive. So last year Mr. Paulovich froze his saskatoon crop in 45-gallon drums and arranged to work at the Food Processing Development Centre to process it into jelly.

Now, White Blossom Berry Farm's saskatoon jelly is on Safeway shelves in Edmonton, Leduc, Grande Prairie, and Fort McMurray. It's also available in stores at Manning, Peace River, and Fairview.

"It's doing well; Safeway just put in an order for another 200 cases," reports Mr. Paulovich.

This year, Mr. Paulovich plans to continue test marketing the jelly and re-introduce the saskatoon syrup. He's also working on a souvenir pack containing saskatoon syrup, rose hip jelly, and honey.

If these products prove to be successful, Mr. Paulovich has ambitions to build his own processing plant in central Alberta within the next three to five years.

In the meantime, he's trying to find more raw material. Anyone looking for a market for their berries should contact Len Paulovich, Box 598, Manning, Alberta, telephone 836-2573.

- 30 -

Contact:

Len Paulovich
836-2573

For immediate release

Agricultural forecasts for Alberta

Alberta Agriculture has announced the continuation of the agricultural weather forecasts produced by the Alberta Weather Centre. The forecasts, first introduced on an experimental basis in 1984, will run until harvesting operations are completed.

After an evaluation of the agriculture forecasts by the Weather Centre and Alberta Agriculture, changes have been made to the 1985 program. The changes are based on suggestions from farmers, district agriculturists and media.

"The elements of the forecast will be the same but format changes should make it easier for the media to follow," says Dena Lewis of Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.

One new feature is a general synopsis describing the main systems affecting the weather and their expected movements.

The Alberta Weather Centre issues the agricultural weather forecast at 5:30 a.m. daily. It contains a synopsis, a forecast of minimum relative humidity, wind conditions and drying conditions at a number of locations in Alberta and northeastern British Columbia. On weekends the early morning issue provides a three to five-day outlook.

There is also a late morning issue at 11:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. It forecasts maximum and minimum relative humidity and a drying index followed by a three to five-day outlook and a synopsis specifically tailored to the agricultural user.

It's hoped that this late morning issue will be used most by radio and television stations that broadcast farm news and information shows on Monday to Friday, says Ms. Lewis.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch
Phone: (403) 427-2121

Agricultural forecasts for Alberta (cont'd)

The weekly climate summaries, released on Friday afternoons last year, are now issued on Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. to give the media greater opportunity to broadcast the information during their weekday programming.

For further information on the forecasts contact Neil Meadows, Alberta Weather Centre, 438-4361 or Dena Lewis, Alberta Agriculture, 422-4385.

- 30 -

Contact:

Neil Meadows 438-4361 or Dena Lewis 422-4385

For immediate release

Herbicide Recommendation Program

On May 1, 1985, the Herbicide Recommendation Program became operational in Alberta Agricultures' regional offices at Barrhead, Vermilion, Airdrie, Lethbridge, Red Deer and Fairview and at the district office at Westlock.

According to Walter Yarish, head of Alberta Agriculture's weed control sector, the computer assisted program is designed to assist producers select the most appropriate herbicide for the weed spectrum in their particular crop. It also makes cost comparisons, performs metric conversions, and calculates the quantity of herbicide that should be added to the spray tank.

Here's how it works: Farmers give the type of weed problem they have and the stage of the crop. A computer search yields all potential herbicides registered for this purpose and their relative degrees of control and crop tolerance. To make cost comparisons, the rate used, the acreage (acres or hectares) and the cost of the herbicide are entered. Once the individual has the degree of control, the crop tolerance and the relative cost, he chooses the product that best suits his needs. He can then calculate the quantity of product and water to be added to his spray tank to obtain a certain rate of output.

"After the sprayer is properly calibrated, and the right proportion of water and herbicide added to the spray tank, the only thing left to the operator is spending the long hours on the tractor," says Mr. Yarish.

Although the equipment and communication lines to access the program will only be available in the regional Alberta Agriculture offices this year, expansion to district offices is anticipated in the future.

- 30 -

Contact:

Walter Yarish
427-5329

For immediate release

4-H Wildlife Habitat contest

Last year a new wildlife habitat project series was introduced to Alberta 4-H members.

"The purpose of the project is to help young people gain an understanding and appreciation for wildlife," says Sandy Behnke, provincial 4-H home economics specialist, "They are encouraged to provide suitable habitats for wild animals and birds on their own land."

4-H'ers participating in the habitat project must complete a manual consisting of 10 lessons covering concepts and techniques of land and wildlife management. Games and activities are an integral part of the manual.

To create awareness among 4-H members about the new project, a contest co-sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, Alberta Energy and Natural Resources, and Environment Canada, has been developed.

Any 4-H member who was enrolled in the junior or senior Wildlife Habitat project from summer '84 to summer '85 is eligible to enter. Entrants must submit a completed manual before September 1, 1985.

Those competing in the junior category should send their manuals to: Habitat Contest, Brooks Wildlife Center, P.O. Bag 1540, Brooks, Alberta, T0J 0J0. Senior participants should mail their manuals to their regional 4-H specialist.

Each 4-H member returning a completed manual to Brooks or a regional 4-H office will receive a special wildlife cap. The three outstanding manuals from the junior and senior categories will be awarded prizes: First prize is a camera valued at $300, second prize is a $125 camera and third prize is a pair of binoculars valued at $100.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

4-H Wildlife Habitat contest (cont'd)

For further information on the 4-H Wildlife Habitat project and contest please contact your local district home economist or regional 4-H specialist.

- 30 -

Contact:

Sandy Behnke
427-2541

May 20, 1985

For immediate release

Winter injury to evergreens

As air temperatures increased this spring, browning of evergreen foliage became more apparent. Winter injury or winter drought damage is quite prevalent throughout the province, says Betty Vladicka, of the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticultural Centre. And, as spring progresses, more damage will become noticeable, she adds.

In most cases, the onset of symptoms is gradual. However, sometimes color changes occur over just a few days.

Needle color generally fades from green to light tan or reddish brown depending upon the species and the severity of damage. Some trees exhibit only brown and dried needle tips. If the damage has been severe, trees may lose most of their needles. This may occur on certain branches, at the top, on one side or over the entire tree. Severe or complete defoliation can mean the death of a tree or shrub.

This spring, browning is more severe on trees growing in exposed sites and on south and west facing branches which were more subject to sun glare from snow in February and March. Young trees are generally more susceptible.

The most common cause of browning is due to drought dessication in winter. Since evergreens retain their needles throughout the winter, they lose moisture continuously. This loss can't be replaced because the ground is frozen and the roots are unable to take up moisture. If plants are exposed to drying winds, the probability of damage is increased.

The situation was compounded this year by the drought conditions prevalent in many areas, says Ms. Vladicka. In addition, many woody plants had not fully acclimated before the unseasonal snow and cold temperatures of October.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Winter injury to evergreens (cont'd)

Ms. Vladicka recommends that evergreens showing signs of injury should be watered as soon as the ground thaws. A light fertilization will help promote new growth. Since injured trees are slow to promote growth, no pruning of branches or removal of plants should be undertaken until you can be sure which parts are dead. Careful pruning will be required to restore the shape and forms of injured evergreens especially pine and spruce.

- 30 -

Contact:

Betty Vladicka
973-3351

May 20, 1985

For immediate release

Water hemlock poisoning in cattle

At this time of year, reports of unexplained cattle deaths are common. Usually, only one or two animals are involved, but occasionally a large number of cattle are found dead.

These deaths seem to occur most often in the spring when cattle are grazing in the lower, damper areas of a pasture. It's here that growth begins earlier and becomes lusher because of ample moisture. It's also here that spotted water hemlock is commonly found, the poisonous plant usually responsible for mysterious cattle deaths, says Arnold Stearman, of Alberta Agriculture's Plant Industry Division.

Most of the poisonous oil in spotted water hemlock is found in the chambered roots. Cattle are more likely to pull up and eat the roots of the plant in the spring when the ground is soft. A single root contains enough poison to kill a cow.

Commonly, cows will snatch a mouthful of green forage while being driven through a low marshy area. If the forage happens to contain water hemlock shoots, a cow will die instantaneously if it eats the roots.

Water hemlock bears some resemblance to water parsnip, a much less poisonous plant. Identification of mature plants can easily be made using the weed plates available from district agriculturists or agricultural fieldmen. Water parsnip leaves are singly compound while water hemlock leaves are doubly compound.

Identification in the spring is more difficult. The water parsnip has many fibrous roots while Water Hemlock has a swollen tuberous root. Positive identification is possible by carefully slicing a root lengthwise. Water hemlock is horizontally chambered while wild parsnip is not. Extreme care must be taken in making this test and should only be carried out as

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

a last resort. One drop of the poisonous oil in an open cut is fatal.

Since there's no antidote for water hemlock poisoning, grazing management is the best means of reducing the problem. "All actions must be aimed at preventing cattle from pulling the plant and eating the root," says Mr. Stearman.

Too early grazing of a pasture often leads to incidents of poisoning by water hemlock, reports Mr. Stearman.

If marsh hay is cut and harvested for fodder, the dried tops of water hemlock are generally not toxic.

Water hemlock grows in sloughs, wet meadows and on stream banks, where the earliest and greenest growth occurs. If possible, grazing should be delayed until other areas are more advanced. If this isn't possible, run an electric fence to keep cattle away from the infested area.

If cattle are moved to new pastures, they usually arrive hungry and will graze anything green. They will also snatch bites as they move. "Probably the only remedy for this is to try to move them on a full stomach," suggests Mr. Stearman.

Chemical control of water hemlock is possible but not practical. 2,4-D Ester 600 at 1.5 litres per acre will control water hemlock but will also remove most of the desirable broadleaved forages. Water hemlock often grows as isolated plants making it difficult to treat.

- 30 -

Contact:

Arnold Stearman
427-5326

May 20, 1985

For immediate release

Take precautionary measures when working with pesticides

"Farmers are advised to wear coveralls at all times when working with pesticides. Gloves, goggles and chemical respirators should be used only when required," says Dr. Moe Hussain, Alberta Agriculture's pesticide specialist.

Coveralls are recommended to prevent the skin from being exposed to the pesticide. More than 95 per cent exposure occurs via the skin, reports Dr. Hussain.

Coveralls should be made of cotton or polyester-cotton and should be stored in a plastic bag after pesticide use. They should not be stored or washed with other clothing. Line drying is recommended. Hot water and heavy-duty detergent will remove most of the pesticide from coveralls.

In cases where a small amount of pesticide is used during a season, disposable coveralls may be better. These can be washed once or twice, then thrown away at the end of the spray period.

Rubber gloves should be used when farmers are mixing chemicals in their spray tank since the hands are usually exposed the most at this time, says Dr. Hussain.

Cloth, suede or leather gloves are not recommended since they absorb chemicals.

Goggles are required when mixing or spraying chemicals indentified as eye irritants. Redness and swelling may occur after these chemicals have been splashed in the eyes, even after they've been washed. If this happens, consult a physician.

Respirators are required only when using very toxic pesticides. In most cases, the label indicates whether a respirator is needed during tank mixing or spraying. Respirators should be of a type designed only for pesticides; dust masks will not work.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch
Phone: (403) 427-2121

Take precautionary measures when working with pesticides (cont'd)

If a farmer intends to use a small amount of pesticide during the season, disposable respirators may be used then discarded at the end of the season.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. Moe Hussain
427-4438

For immediate release

Increasing the energy intake of sows during lactation

High energy intake by lactating sows is necessary to prevent excessive weight loss and the probability of subsequent breeding problems, says Sam Jaikaran, Alberta Agricuture's monogastric nutritionist. Energy intake can be increased by two methods: increasing daily feed intake, and increasing the energy content of the nursing sow feed.

Here is how daily feed intake may be increased:

Feed intake during pregnancy. It's well established that the higher the feed intake during pregnancy the lower the appetite will be during lactation. Thus overfeeding in pregnancy must be avoided.

Environmental temperature. Sows will consume more feed at lower room temperatures. Therefore, a heated creep area should be provided rather than whole house heating of the farrowing rooms. If the room temperature is 28 degrees to 30 degrees Celsius around farrowing time it should be lowered to about 22 degrees to 24 degrees Celsius four days after farrowing is complete in that room.

Frequency of feeding. Sows will consume more feed if they are fed three times a day or are full fed. Ad lib feeding can be started one week after farrowing.

Adequate water supply. The more water a sow drinks the more feed she consumes. Drinking water should be free from contamination and if supplied by nipples the rate of flow should be two to three litres per minute. Often sows will not consume enough water if the flow rate of nipples is below two litres per minute.

Wet feeding. Sows will normally consume more feed in wet form than in dry form. This may or may not be practical in all farrowing feed systems.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch
Phone: (403) 427-2121

Increasing the energy intake of sows during lactation (cont'd)

Eliminate low energy ingredients. Bran, alfalfa, beet pulp and oats should be removed from the nurse sow ration because they lower the energy concentration of feed. These ingredients can be replaced by barley.

Adequate diet protein. Low protein diets (below 14 per cent) should be avoided since low protein intake has a tendency to reduce appetite.

The energy content of a lactation sow diet can be increased by including 30 per cent wheat, and/or two to five per cent tallow or vegetable oil.

If top dressing is preferred, vegetable oil or a suitable high energy product may be fed at recommended rates to selected high-producing sows starting around the second week of lactation.

Because the economic benefits of properly feeding breeding sows far outweigh the extra cost and labor involved, extra effort in this area can produce good returns in a sow enterprise.

- 30 -

Contact:

Sam Jaikaran
427-6361

May 20, 1985

For immediate release

How to select physical record-keeping software for your farm computer

Computers are efficient at collecting, categorizing, and analyzing large amounts of data. Running a modern farm efficiently requires the gathering and analysis of information on many different measures, dates, applications, and other important managerial material. To perform this job with a computer, a farmer needs the right software.

Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch at Olds has developed a guide to assist farmers evaluate physical record-keeping software to find the program best suited to their purposes, says George Maicher, a farm management economist with the branch. The guide also contains reviews of 14 programs available in western Canada. These reviews discuss cow/calf, crop, dairy, feedlot and swine and poultry management programs.

Software, or the program that runs the computer, is and will continue to be the key element in harnessing the microcomputer as an effective management tool. Physical record-keeping software comes in a wide variety of programs, some specifically developed for agriculture and other more universally usable programs which were specifically adapted for agricultural applications.

Determining which software package is best for your farm operation is a difficult task, one which is complicated by new terminology and concepts which must be mastered to deal with computer systems. To aid in making an intelligent purchase, the guide helps organize and classify the many aspects of a product's performance.

Microcomputer technology is relatively new, with advances in hardware and software development occurring at a rapid pace. However, electronic data processing with microcomputers seems to be consolidating. Now, farmers planning to use computers to manage their operation do not need to worry about acquiring computer technology that's outdated as soon as it's bought.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

How to select physical record-keeping software for your farm computer (cont'd)

Computers are here to stay, and will help us increase our productivity. Making a good choice in selecting the right computer and program combination will speed up the process.

How to Select Physical Record-Keeping Software for Your Farm Computer, Agdex 818-26, is available from district agriculturists; the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6; or from the farm business management branch, Alberta Agriculture, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, telephone 556-4240.

- 30 -

Contact:

George Maicher 556-4249 or Mark Olson 556-4276

May 20, 1985

For immediate release

Shock chlorinate your water system this spring

Shock chlorination is an effective and inexpensive treatment for controlling iron bacteria. If problems with your water system did not force you to treat it this winter, spring is the best time to shock chlorinate, says Archie Archampong, water engineer with Alberta Agriculture. He advises that shock chlorination be included in your water source maintenance schedule in the spring and fall.

To determine if you have an iron bacteria problem, check your toilet flush tank. If the inside walls are stained dark grey to reddish brown and feel slippery, an iron bacteria problem likely exists. Other signs of the bacteria are spurting taps, a greasy film on the water surface, reduced water flow, and a rotten-egg smell.

Even if the water has no initial staining problems, presence of the bacteria can gradually cause staining of laundry and plumbing fixtures. If the bacteria is not held in check, a jelly by-product of the bacteria can plug water treatment filters making them ineffective.

Follow this procedure to shock-chlorinate your water system:

- Mix six jugs (3.6L) of laundry bleach in 200 gallons of water. Siphon the chlorinated water into the well.
- Run each faucet in the house, one at a time until you smell chlorine then shut it off.
- Now relax and leave the system unused for a minimum of eight hours (usually overnight).
- Flush out the water system through an outside tap to get rid of the chlorine smell.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Shock chlorinate your water system this spring (cont'd)

Here are some useful tips when shock chlorinating:

- If you don't have a tank to hold 200 gallons of water, use the box of a half-ton truck. Line the inside with a polyethylene membrane and fill it 9 to 12 inches high.
- If you have a bored well put the bleach into it and circulate the water through an outside faucet.
- Chlorine may temporarily numb your sense of smell and you may have to rely on your sense of feel - chlorinated water makes your fingers feel slippery.
- Don't forget to chlorinate iron filters and water softeners.

For more information on shock chlorination, refer to the publication *Shock Chlorination and Control of Iron Bacteria, Agdex 716(12)*, available from the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6 or contact your local district agriculturist or regional agricultural engineering technologist.

- 30 -

Contact:

Augustus (Archie) Archampong
427-2181

May 20, 1985

For immediate release

New irrigation specialist appointed

Mr. A.E. Pungor, head of Alberta Agriculture's irrigation branch, has announced the appointment of Clarence Vos as irrigation specialist at the Strathmore branch office.

Mr. Vos was born and raised on a farm near Fort Macleod. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1981 with a B.Sc. in agriculture majoring in agricultural engineering.

Since June 1982, Mr. Vos worked for Alberta Agriculture as an irrigation specialist at Airdrie. During this time he carried out feasibility investigations for water licensing and did water management extension work.

In his new position, Mr. Vos will direct irrigation branch activities in the Strathmore, Cluny and Standard areas. He will provide technical assistance to irrigation farmers regarding on-farm irrigation and drainage development projects and irrigation management.

- 30 -

Contact:

Clarence Vos
934-3356

May 20, 1985

For immediate release

New ADC loans officers appointed - Red Deer region

Ken Friesen, regional manager for the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) at Red Deer, has announced the appointment of two new loans officers.

Working out of ADC's Wetaskiwin office, Laurry Orr will cover the Wetaskiwin, Camrose, and Flagstaff area. Mr. Orr was born and raised on a farm near Fort Macleod. He holds a B.Sc. in agriculture and his experience includes dryland and irrigation farming. His appointment was effective April 15, 1985.

Ernst Smith was appointed loans officer at Red Deer, April 1, 1985. He holds a livestock production technology diploma from Olds College as well as a B.Sc. in agriculture majoring in agricultural economics. After graduating from the University of Alberta in 1978, Mr. Smith worked for Alberta Agriculture as a district agriculturist in central Alberta. He has also worked as a farm management technician.

- 30 -

Contact:

Laurry Orr or Ernst Smith
352-1243 340-5364

AL.1.641

AGRI-NEWS

May 27, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Alberta pulse growers expand 1
Remote sensing of crops 2
Greenhouse growers have options after bedding plant season 4
Make the most of your accountant 6
More pesticides cleared of IBT involvement 7
Watch for seaside arrow-grass 9
1985 Alberta land leasing rates 10
Post-harvest specialist appointed to AHRC, Brooks. 13
District agriculturist appointed at Airdrie 14
District home economist appointed at Valleyview. 15
ADC loans officer appointed. 16
New ADC loan administrator appointed 17
ADC loan review officer appointed 18

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

May 27, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta pulse growers expand

The Pulse Growers Association of Alberta (PGAA) has announced the establishment of a northern branch.

"It will consist of pulse growers north of Edmonton, mainly fababean and pea growers," says Blair Roth, Alberta Agriculture's special crops specialist at Lethbridge.

PGAA will now consist of three branches: the southern branch representing the Calgary-south area; the central branch representing growers in the Camrose to Lloydminster area and now the northern branch.

Pulse production in areas north of Edmonton has expanded dramatically in recent years, says Mr. Roth. This increased interest in the production of peas and fababeans has increased the demand for agronomic information on pulse production. With assistance from the Farming for the Future On-Farm Demonstration Program and the Pulse Growers Association of Alberta this kind of applied research will be carried out extensively in 1985.

On **August 8**, the northern branch will be displaying plots on a tour in the Morinville area. The central branch will have its pulse tour on **August 7** in the Camrose-Edberg area and the southern branch has scheduled its tour for **August 2** in the Vauxhall-Barnwell area. Anyone interested in pulse production is welcome to attend. For further information contact Blair Roth, 381-5127.

- 30 -

Contact:

Blair Roth
381-5127

For immediate release

Remote sensing of crops

According to the Lethbridge research station, space-age research is helping develop an eye-in-the-sky system for monitoring crop production. By combining computer, aerospace and agricultural technology it estimates crop productivity and permits estimates of the type and condition of the crop.

Dave Major, crop physiologist with the Lethbridge research station, says remote-sensing equipment will be an integral component of tomorrow's farming system.

From a position three metres above the ground, a radiometer is used to measure light reflected from soils and crops. Similar radiometers are being used in satellites 900 kilometres above the earth to obtain an accurate reading on areas as small as 0.1 hectare (30 X 30 metres).

Light energy from the sun striking an object on the earth's surface is either absorbed, transmitted or reflected. Only a small amount of the sun's energy is absorbed by plants for growth and the rest is emitted in distinct wavelengths. Different soils, types of crops and growth stages reflect light differently. By measuring this reflected light, the condition and yield of crops around the world can be estimated.

The United States was the first to put a satellite into orbit to obtain an inventory of the world's vegetation. This satellite carries radiometers that measure reflectance from the earth's surface in four light bands or wavelengths: two in the visible portion of the spectrum and two in the near-infrared portion. Data are transmitted back to receiving stations for every 0.5 hectare every six days.

The Lethbridge research station uses a truck-mounted four-band radiometer held three metres above the ground to measure crop reflectance each week at about noon. Also, a

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

small area of the crop each week is harvested to measure the amount of green vegetation and dead or diseased tissue and grain.

The reflectance readings are converted to three indices: brightness for soil, greenness and yellowness for the vegetation. A saline soil or a blowout gives a high value of brightness while a wet soil has low brightness. As the crop grows, the greenness index increases and values can be added up over the season to estimate the total amount of crop growth. Total crop growth is related to grain yield.

There is good potential for the development of new uses for remote-sensing information. For example, aircraft with remote-sensing equipment flying over a field could be used to identify problem areas and provide an early warning that salinity or diseases may be developing. This technology could also be applied to rangelands for establishing stocking rates.

The benefits include an increase in agricultural productivity of crops on low-yielding land and an increase in profits because of more precise seeding and application of fertilizers.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dave Major
327-4561

May 27, 1985

For immediate release

Greenhouse growers have options after bedding plant season

The end of May usually marks the end of the commercial bedding plant season for many commercial and hobby greenhouse growers.

Mirza Mohyuddin, greenhouse specialist with the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre, says growers have several options if they want to continue their business after the demand for bedding plants has ended.

One option is to grow vegetables which can only be grown in greenhouses because of their temperature requirements.

"Right now the market for seedless cucumbers and tomatoes is very good," reports Mr. Mohyuddin.

Only female varieties of cucumbers should be selected. The visitation of honeybees should be avoided so that the seedless cucumbers don't become pollinated, says Mr. Mohyuddin. They require a night temperature of 20° Celsius and can withstand temperatures as high as 27° Celsius. Cucumbers are fast-growing; the time from seeding to the first cucumber is about 50 to 55 days.

With tomatoes, growers can expect a marketable fruit within 90 to 120 days. Only greenhouse varieties must be used. "When you have six or seven sets of flowers on the plants, top them off to encourage large growths of fruit on lower clusters," advises Mr. Mohyuddin.

If growers can keep the greenhouse cool both day and night, lettuce is another good choice. It's relatively fast growing, producing a product within 45 days. Once again, growers must select varieties meant only for greenhouse cultivation.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Greenhouse growers have options after bedding plant season (cont'd)

Poinsettias can also provide greenhouse growers with a reasonable income. Rooted cuttings should have been ordered by now and should be planted by late July or early August to be ready two weeks before Christmas.

Growers can also consider growing different types of foliage plants such as ivys, rubber plants, and scheffleras. They like hot and humid conditions and can grow quickly under proper conditions.

- 30 -

Contact:

Mirza Mohyuddin
973-3351

For immediate release

Make the most of your accountant

In a matter of years, Alberta farmers have seen their industry slide from relative prosperity to a recession. As a result, their business decisions have become even more complicated.

To keep solvent, farmers must make many critical business decisions. They range from how to organize the business, to deciding on major land and machinery investments, to whether money is available for these purchases or whether funds must be borrowed.

"Accountants can play an important role in assisting farmers with these kinds of financial management decisions," says George Maicher of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch at Olds.

Generally, farmers tend to use accountants only for tax matters such as calculating and filing income tax returns. Few farmers have stepped beyond this to include their accountant's financial advice in their overall business management plans, says Mr. Maicher.

Right now, because of the financial difficulties being experienced by many farmers, it's especially important to use the training and expertise of a professional accountant. Not only are they trained in measuring income, auditing records and advising in tax matters, but they're also capable of acting as consultants in many financial management areas.

To help Alberta farmers make more effective use of their accountants, Alberta Agriculture has developed the factsheet, *Make Your Accountant a Partner in Your Farm Management Team, Agdex, 818-28*. This publication is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices; the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6; or from the farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0, telephone, 556-4240.

- 30 -

Contact:

George Maicher
556-4249

May 27, 1985

For immediate release

More pesticides cleared of IBT involvement

Six herbicides, very important to Alberta farmers, have now been cleared from the Industrial Biotest (IBT) list. They are Avadex, Dual, Gramoxone, Lontrel, Reglone, and Roundup.

According to Dr. Moe Hussain, pesticide specialist with Alberta Agriculture, new studies on these six chemicals have been completed and no health problems were identified.

Four other less important pesticides - Desicate, Disyston, Metasystox R, and Orthene - have also been taken off the IBT list.

IBT was a privately-owned laboratory which carried out pesticide safety tests for chemical manufacturers. Several years ago, the laboratory was found to be falsifying test results and was closed down. At that time, the federal health and welfare department undertook an in-depth review of the 113 pesticides involved and ordered that new tests be carried out. Since then, test results have been issued regularly.

Eighteen of these chemicals were not used in Canada but were used on fruits and vegetables imported into Canada.

To date, 75 of the pesticides have been fully cleared from the IBT list. Five pesticides, used to a very small extent in Canada, were taken off the market since manufacturers were not willing to spend the nearly $10 million required to test each pesticide again.

- (cont'd) -

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

More pesticides cleared of IBT involvement (cont'd)

Three others were found to cause significant health problems in animals after the repeat tests and were subsequently restricted in use. None of these is used to any extent in Alberta.

Test results for the remaining chemicals on the IBT list are expected to be available within the next year at which time all pesticides should be cleared, says Mr. Hussain.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. M. Hussain
427-4438

May 27, 1985

For immediate release

Watch for seaside arrow-grass

Arnold Stearman, weed control specialist with Alberta Agriculture, advises livestock producers to watch for seaside arrow-grass, a poisonous plant.

Arrow-grass is an erect, rush-like perennial that begins to grow early in the spring, even before grass. The leaves are thick, flat on one side and rounded on the other, smooth and spongy and are a bright, shiny green. It re-grows quickly after mowing.

The poisonous ingredients, found in fresh or newly-dried leaves, in as little as five pounds of arrow-grass, could cause death from asphyxia.

Since arrow-grass usually grows in salt marshes and alkaline sloughs, cattle or sheep lacking salt will tend to eat arrow-grass for its salt content.

"The green plant and hay are poisonous, but hay in storage will gradually lose its poisonous properties." says Mr. Stearman.

If there are only a few plants they can be pulled and removed. If many plants are present, fencing out cattle or sheep from the area will protect the stock. If this is not possible, keeping an adequate supply of salt available to the animals will ensure they do not consume seaside arrow-grass.

Color photos of seaside arrow-grass may be seen at Alberta Agriculture district offices or at municipal agriculture offices.

- 30 -

Contact:

Arnold Stearman
427-5326

For immediate release

1985 Alberta land leasing rates

According to an annual survey carried out by Alberta Agriculture, on the average, cash farmland rental rates in Alberta, except for Region 1, have increased slightly over the past year. The survey, conducted between February and April, was a joint project of the statistics branch and the farm business management branch.

Cost per acre of rental land in 1984 and 1985

	Most Common 1984	Range 1985	Most Common 1985
Region 1 Irrigated	$60 - $80	$15 - $118	$60 - $90
Non-Irrigated	$25 - $40	$7.50 - $45	$12 - $30
Region 2	$25 - $35	$7 - $50	$25 - $45
Region 3	$20 - $30	$12.50 - $50	$25 - $40
Region 4	$25 - $35	$15 - $51	$24 - $37
Region 5	$15 - $25	$5 - $40	$15 - $40
Region 6	$15 - $20	$14 - $25	$15 - $22

Region 1 is the most southerly portion of the province and includes Brooks, Bassano, Vulcan, and Nanton on its northern border. Region 2 is the south-central portion of the province and its northern border is bounded by a horizontal line through Sullivan Lake, Trochu, Olds, and Sundre. Region 3 is the north-central area and its northern boundary includes Sounding Lake, Daysland, Camrose, and Wetaskiwin. Region 4 is the northeast region and is the portion of the province that lies along the Saskatchewan border between Provost and Fort McMurray. Its western border includes Lac La Biche, Smoky Lake, Lamont, Tofield, and Hardisty. Region 5 is the northwest region and lies west of Edmonton and north of Wetaskiwin. Region 6 is the Peace River region.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

1985 Alberta land leasing rates (cont'd)

Gerd Andres of Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch suggests that the decrease in cash farmland rental rates in Region 1 reflects last year's drought and this year's potential grasshopper infestation problem.

He attributes the range in 1985 cash rents to the quality and quantity of land being rented, the profits earned last year, the perceived profitability of the crops to be grown this year, whether or not the lease was signed when land values were high, and whether or not the land is being rented to an established, reliable tenant.

Mr. Andres reports that 55 per cent of the farm land rented this year has been rented on a cash basis compared to 53 per cent in 1984. Crop sharing agreements have changed little from last year except in Region 6 where an 85 per cent increase in the 25 per cent to 75 per cent agreement has occurred. The table below illustrates the Landlord-Tenant Crop Share Agreements.

Landlord-tenant crop share agreements 1985

Landlord Share	Tenant Share	Region (per cent agreements) 1	2	3	4	5	6
25%	75%	-	-	-	12.5%	-	65%
33.3%	66.7%	76%	85%	91%	75%	100%	35%
40%	60%	17%	9%	4.5%	-	-	-
50%	50%	7%	6%	4.5%	12.5%	-	-

According to Mr. Andres, the predominant cropshare agreement in Alberta is the 1/3 to 2/3 agreement, except in Region 6 where it's 1/4 to 3/4. Landlords in Region 1 may receive a larger proportion of the crop than those in other regions because they usually pay for

- (cont'd) -

the water that's used on irrigated crops. In Region 6, 65 per cent of the agreements are based on a 1/4 to 3/4 split because most of the tenants pay all the input costs. This type of agreement has approximately the same dollar value as the 1/3 to 2/3 split when the landlord's responsibility for one-third of the fertilizer and herbicide costs are taken into account. The table below illustrates the sharing of input costs by region.

Sharing of input costs in 1985

Region	Landlord Pays Part or Proportion of Input Costs	Tenant Pays All Input Costs, Except Taxes, Fences and Water
1	59%	41%
2	61%	39%
3	27%	73%
4	38%	62%
5	79%	21%
6	28%	72%

Additional information on land leasing charges and custom rates for all types of farming operations can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture district offices, Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch in Edmonton (427-4018), and the farm business management branch in Olds (556-4247).

- 30 -

Contact:

Gerd Andres
556-4247

May 27, 1985

For immediate release

Post-harvest specialist appointed to AHRC, Brooks

Tom Krahn, director of the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks, has announced the appointment of Dr. Ken Mallett as post-harvest specialist.

Dr. Mallett will conduct a program of applied research and extension involving the storage and handling of horticultural crops. He will also carry out plant pathology research and extension for vegetables, potatoes, trees, ornamentals and turf, and provide general extension services to commercial mushroom growers in Alberta.

Dr. Mallett is a native of Edmonton. He obtained his M.Sc. in plant pathology and Ph.D. in forest pathology from the University of Alberta.

- 30 -

Contact:

Ken Mallett
362-3391

May 27, 1985

For immediate release

District agriculturist appointed at Airdrie

C.S. Clark, regional director at Airdrie, has announced the appointment of Barbara Bennett as district agriculturist. Ms. Bennett will serve the agricultural community in the Rocky View district.

Ms. Bennett was raised on a mixed livestock grain farm near Dodsland, Saskatchewan. She obtained her B.S.A. in agronomy at the University of Saskatchewan in 1981.

After graduating, she worked for two years as a 4-H specialist in Saskatchewan before joining Alberta Agriculture. Ms. Bennett trained as a DA in Three Hills in late 1982 and worked as a DA in several Alberta Agriculture offices before transferring to her present position.

- 30 -

Contact:

Barbara Bennett
948-5152

May 27, 1985

For immediate release

District home economist appointed at Valleyview

Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch, has announced the appointment of Shirley Lorimer as district home economist at Valleyview. The appointment was effective May 1, 1985.

Ms. Lorimer was raised on a mixed farm located southeast of Barrhead. She graduated from the University of Alberta in 1980 with a B.Sc. in home economics majoring in family studies.

For the past four and a half years, Ms. Lorimer has worked as a child welfare worker with Alberta Social Services and Community Health in Wetaskiwin, specializing in adoptions.

- 30 -

Contact:

Shirley Lorimer
524-3301

For immediate release

ADC loans officer appointed

Garry Poffenroth has been appointed loans officer at Agricultural Development Corporation's (ADC) Edmonton office. The appointment was announced by Lyle Roberts, ADC regional manager at Barrhead.

Mr. Poffenroth was born and raised on a farm in southern Alberta. He graduated from the University of Calgary with a B. Comm. majoring in business management in 1978. He has 10 years of hog and grain farming experience and worked with the Indian Agricultural Development Corporation for three years.

- 30 -

Contact:

Garry Poffenroth
427-2451

May 27, 1985

For immediate release

New ADC loan administrator appointed

Mr. Arnold Jordan has been appointed loan administrator at Agricultural Development Corporation's (ADC) office in Camrose. The appointment which was effective May 1, 1985, was announced by John Bohach, manager of loan administration at Camrose.

Mr. Jordan was born and raised in Rimbey, Alberta. His parents operated a mixed farm and raised purebred beef cattle. Previously employed with a chartered bank, Mr. Jordan has extensive experience in agricultural credit and administration.

- 30 -

Contact:

Arnold Jordan
679-1380

May 27, 1985

For immediate release

ADC loan review officer appointed

Brian Quinn, executive assistant at Agricultural Development Corporation's (ADC) head office in Camrose, has announced the appointment of Thomas McArthur as loan review officer.

Mr. McArthur was raised on a mixed farm near Marwayne, Alberta. He has an impressive 18-year work history with the Treasury Branch, working throughout the province. Most recently, he was branch manager at both Leduc and Camrose, a position he held since 1979.

As a loan review officer at Camrose, Mr. McArthur will review applications for direct farm loans and guarantees submitted from all areas of Alberta.

ADC farm lending currently totals in excess of $1 billion.

- 30 -

Contact:

Thomas McArthur
679-1350

AL.1. 691

AGRI-NEWS

JUN 19 1985

June 3, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

How the 1985 budget affects Alberta farmers 1
Grasshopper spraying source of concern for southern Alberta beekeepers. 6
Lethbridge Community College expands irrigation program 7
Feeding minerals to horses 9
Managing aspen encroachment on rangeland 12
Take precautions when spraying for grasshoppers 13
Turkey situation and outlook 14
Alberta's Agricultural Exports. 16
Fine tune your spray program. 17
Contract signed for construction of second phase of 4-H Centre. 18
1985 Alberta pasture leasing fees 20
Agri-food development branch head appointed. 22
Alberta Environmental Centre open house 23

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 3, 1985

For immediate release

How the 1985 budget affects Alberta farmers

The major agricultural benefit of the May 23, 1985 federal budget went to farmers leaving agriculture, according to Alex Ostapiuk and Merle Good of the farm business management branch at Olds.

Here is a brief summary, prepared by Mr. Ostapiuk and Mr. Good, of how the new budget affects farmers in Alberta.

Major Budget Proposals Affecting Farming

Capital gains tax exemption

As of May 24, 1985, the $120,000 RRSP farm capital gain deferral has been cancelled. Its replacement is a $500,000 life-time "net eligible capital gain" exemption (or $250,000 taxable capital gain) on sale of farmland, farm buildings, farm corporate shares and interests in farm partnerships used in the business of farming. Prior contributions will reduce this $250,000 limit by the amount contributed. The present farm property rollover provision appears to be unaffected. This exemption assists farmers by immediately allowing:

1) a tax reduction or elimination of uncle to nephew transfer

2) broadened estate planning option for non-farm children.

Starting in 1985, a similar capital gains exemption will be phased in over a six-year period for other capital assets, such as machinery, rented land, etc., plus non-farm assets. These yearly cumulative limits of "net eligible taxable capital gains" are: 1985 - $10,000, 1986 - $25,000, 1987 - $50,000, 1988 - $100,000, 1989 - $150,000 and $250,000 in 1990.

As this program is put in place, there will be less need to consider custom farming agreements and joint ventures to establish or maintain an active farming status.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

How the 1985 budget affects Alberta farmers (cont'd)

Small Business Bond (SBB)

This program has been extended until December 31, 1987, to allow only financially distressed farmers and businesses to obtain loans at about five to six per cent points below the market rate. New borrowings, as well as renewals of pre - May 23, 1985 SBB's, are not to exceed a term of five years and a per borrower limit of $500,000. Hopefully, a repetition of the past will not reoccur when due to insufficient program funding only early applicants received loans.

Increased Input Prices

A. Fuel - As of September 3, 1985, fuel and gasoline prices will increase 2¢ per litre, however, as of June 1, there will be a decrease of 0.7¢ per litre to reflect the elimination of the Canadian Ownership Charge.

B. Sales Tax - As of January 1, 1985, sales tax will increase 1%. Presently, the sales tax for construction goods is 6% and 10% on other goods.

Related Party Dealings in Depreciable Property

When depreciable property is being purchased from a relative, the buyer is to assume the capital cost of the relative (seller) for CCA purposes. The capital cost now becomes the buyer's actual cost for tax purposes. This change stops the artificial inflation of depreciable property above the original cost by the buyer, in order to create a larger depreciable base for CCA purposes.

- (cont'd) -

How the 1985 budget affects Alberta farmers (cont'd)

Rebates

Any rebate obtained for the purchase of an asset (i.e., land) must be included in income or used to decrease the cost base of the asset. It appears that the loophole of not deducting third party manufacturers' rebates from the purchase price of farm equipment will no longer be allowed. For example, if the purchase price of an implement is $30,000 and the manufacturer offers a $3,000 rebate, your capital cost will now be $27,000.

Job Creation and Re-training

A significant amount of money has been allocated to job creation, but the details are still sketchy. Additional information as related to farm labor will be published as it becomes available.

Agricultural Subsidies and Agricultural Canada Programs

$50 million has been chopped in each of three years beginning in 1985-86. Programs under question include R.O.P., Canada Grain Commission, and Hail and Crop Insurance.

New Filing Requirements

Individuals must file an income tax return for every taxation year within which a capital loss or capital gain occurs, even though income tax may or may not be payable. If a return is not filed, the capital loss or the special capital gains exemption may not be deducted.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

How the 1985 budget affects Alberta farmers (cont'd)

Major Proposals Affecting The Individual

RRSP

For individuals contributing to an RRSP the contribution limits have increased to 18 per cent of earnings to a maximum of $7,500 for 1986. The maximum increases annually by $2,000 until 1989 when it is $15,500.

If a contribution in any of these years is below the individual's allowable limit, then the unused portion can be contributed to the RRSP within a seven year period along with the regular annual contribution for the year.

Also, individuals wishing to retire before age 60 can now purchase a maturity option (i.e., an annuity) with their RRSP.

RHOSP

As of May 23, 1985, RHOSP contributions are no longer allowed. Any funds withdrawn after May 23 are tax free and can be used for any purpose. Income earned on funds not withdrawn by December 31, 1985 will be subject to tax.

Child Related Items

	Child Tax Exemption		Child Tax Credit	Max. Income For Full Child Tax Credit
	Under 18	18 or over		
1986	$710	$1,420	$454	$23,500
1987	560	1,200	489	23,500 +
1988	470	1,000	524	23,500 +

From 1986 to 1988, the child tax exemptions for children under 18 or 18 or over will decline while the child tax credit will rise. The maximum income for the full child tax credit will drop from the present $26,330 to $23,500 in 1986. Future years will be indexed by the increase of the Consumer Price Index over 3%.

- (cont'd) -

How the 1985 budget affect Alberta farmers (cont'd)

Income Splitting via Loans to Family Members

Income earned from property acquired with a loan to a spouse or minor children will be attributed back to the lender net of interest paid.

Income from investments purchased with pre - May 23, 1985 demand loans will be treated as above unless repaid by January 1, 1988.

This commentary deals with only the major changes of the budget. There are however, other amendments, proposals and additional technical details that will affect certain taxpayers. It's imperative to consult your acccuntant to determine what amendments affect your operation and most importantly, to realize that this budget will not be law until legislated by parliament.

- 30 -

Contact:

Alex Ostapiuk
Farm Business Management Branch, Olds
556-4235

Merle Good
Farm Business Management Branch, Olds
556-4237

For immediate release

Grasshopper spraying source of concern for southern Alberta beekeepers

This year's potential grasshopper problem could prove to be detrimental to southern Alberta beekeepers, says Don MacDonald, Alberta Agriculture's apiculturist at Falher.

In their efforts to protect crops and pasture land by spraying insecticides, farmers could also kill bees thereby endangering beekeepers' economic returns.

The municipalities of Warner, Lethbridge, Willow Creek, Wheatland, Foothills, Pincher Creek, Vulcan and surrounding areas are of particular concern.

To reduce the chance of bee kills, farmers are asked to inform beekeepers keeping bees on their land, or on adjacent property, 48 hours prior to applying insecticides. This will give beekeepers sufficient time to move hives or confine bees to the hive to minimize damage.

Likewise, beekeepers are encouraged to maintain contact with farmers, agricultural fieldmen, district agriculturists and pesticide applicators.

"Most bee kills can be avoided if sufficient warning is given," says Mr. MacDonald.

Bee kills can be reduced if the insecticide is applied in the evening after most bee flight has stopped. If bees are to be confined to the hive during the heat of the day, it's recommended that the entrance be blocked with wet burlap. Adequate space for the bees must be supplied by adding another honey super. A frame feeder or top feeder with water should also be provided. In an emergency, water can be supplied by simply pouring a cupful periodically over the top hive.

- 30 -

Contact:

Don MacDonald
837-2252

June 3, 1985

For immediate release

Lethbridge Community College expands irrigation program

The Lethbridge Community College is expanding and revising its irrigation program to better fit the needs of the modern irrigation industry. More emphasis is being placed on irrigation in the day program and the continuing education division is offering more courses in irrigation and other agricultural topics.

A major step in 1984-85 was the hiring of a full-time irrigation instructor to head the program. Len Ring assumed the post after 14 years of irrigation experience with Alberta Agriculture. Ring possesses a B.Sc. from the University of Saskatchewan and an M.Sc. from Colorado University, both in agricultural engineering. While with Alberta Agriculture he specialized in design, research and extension related to sprinkler systems, pipelines and pumping units.

In addition to hiring an instructor, the college has revised the content of all irrigation courses. The irrigation option is part of the agricultural technology program where students take a common set of courses in first year and then specialize in irrigation or one of four other options in the second year. As part of the modification to the agricultural technology program, general irrigation will now also be taught to the first year students with more emphasis on design for the second year irrigation students.

In addition to the irrigation design courses, students taking the Irrigation Option also study drainage, water conveyance, air photo interpretation, drafting, surveying, crop production, soils, farm machinery, accounting and an introduction to computers. The

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

classroom instruction is complemented by "hands-on" lab periods as well as a number of field trips throughout the irrigated area.

Upon graduation, students are well-equipped to work with government agencies, irrigation districts, irrigation dealers and consulting firms. They are also much better prepared to operate and manage a modern irrigation farm if that's their preference.

Students wishing to enrol in the agricultural technology irrigation option should register as soon as possible since space is limited. Prospective students, or prospective employers of graduates, are encouraged to contact Len Ring at the college for more information on the program.

- 30 -

Contact:

Len Ring
320-3200

June 3, 1985

For immediate release

Feeding minerals to horses

Choosing mineral supplements for horses can be one of the more difficult tasks a horse owner can face. "There are numerous products available and making the correct decision isn't always easy," says Bob Coleman, Alberta Agriculture's horse specialist at Edmonton.

The two major minerals that horse owners should be concerned about are calcium and phosphorus. Alberta hays generally fed to horses contain levels of calcium which will meet most horse requirements. However, phosphorus levels commonly found in Alberta feeds are below levels which adequately meet most horse requirements. This means horse owners should choose a mineral product which provides an adequate level of phosphorus.

A livestock mineral with equal parts calcium and phosphorus is recommended, says Mr. Coleman. These products are called 1:1 minerals and can contain a minimum of 14 per cent calcium and phosphorus. The amount of mineral a horse needs depends on its class (weaning, two-year old, etc.), and the level of phosphorus in the forage. To meet the phosphorus requirement, mineral intake will range from one to two ounces per horse per day depending on these factors.

Trace mineral nutrition has also become a concern for many livestock producers. Ninety per cent of Alberta hay samples analysed for zinc and copper do not meet horse requirements. Fifty per cent of the samples are deficient in manganese, and selenium has been found to be below the required level 60 per cent of the time.

Horse owners should select a livestock mineral product which has adequate levels of trace minerals. Mr. Coleman recommends a 1:1 livestock mineral containing a minimum of 0.4 per cent zinc, 0.2 per cent copper and 0.15 per cent manganese.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Feeding minerals to horses (cont'd)

Many mineral products contain selenium at 10 ppm. The decision to use a product containing selenium should be based on a feed test or discussion with someone who knows what levels of selenium are typically found in feeds from the horse owner's area.

Fortified salts offer horse owners another method of providing trace minerals for their horses. These new products contain high levels of copper, zinc and manganese and can be used with a mineral product containing lower levels of trace minerals to produce an effective mineral supplement combination.

Many of the mineral products are available in block or loose form, with or without salt. It's recommended that a loose product be used since horses tend to eat more of it. If the mineral does not contain salt, a source of loose salt should be provided.

With the feedstuffs generally fed to horses, the use of a 1:1 mineral with added trace minerals will effectively meet horse mineral requirements. For more detailed information about feedstuffs, a feed test is recommended. When getting feed tested, horse owners should consider not only the analysis of protein, fiber, calcium and phosphorus but also copper, zinc, manganese and selenium.

Mature horses on pasture, mares and foals, and horses on maintenance diets are specific horse classes where it's practical to use free-choice minerals. However, providing minerals free-choice to all your horses is a good idea, says Mr. Coleman.

A common problem many horse owners face is that horses don't eat the minerals provided on a free-choice basis. Here are some ways to encourage horses to eat the mineral that's provided:

1. Use a loose mineral rather than a block. Horses tend to prefer the loose product over hard block products. Intakes of minerals in the block form can be reduced

- (cont'd) -

Feeding minerals to horses (cont'd)

10 to 15 per cent when compared to the loose product. This is also the case for salt.

2. Put the mineral in a suitable feeder located where the horses spend time. It will take some time observing the horses to find a good location. Once you have selected the location, check the mineral about once a week to monitor how much the horses are eating.

3. Keep the mineral fresh. Allow two ounces of mineral per horse per day. Put out enough mineral for a week at a time rather than for a whole month.

4. Mix the mineral to entice horses to eat it. Suggested additives are salt, dried molasses, or ground grain. Using these additives at three parts additive to seven parts mineral will change the taste and texture of the mineral enough to overcome the horse's dislike for it.

There is no set pattern for improving a horse's mineral intake; it takes some observation and experimentation, says Mr. Coleman.

For further information on feed testing, ration formulation or mineral selection, contact Alberta Agriculture's horse industry branch, 9th floor, O.S. Longman Building, 6909 - 116 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 4P2, phone 436-9150 or 2003 - McKnight Boulevard, Calgary, Alberta, T2E 6L2, phone 276-7775.

- 30 -

Contact:

Bob Coleman
436-9150

For immediate release

Managing aspen encroachment on rangeland

A source of continuing concern for range managers is the encroachment of aspen poplar suckers, says Arnold Stearman, Alberta Agriculture's weed specialist.

Although copses of taller aspen are desirable on a range to provide shade and shelter for cattle, aspen poplar stands tend to continually expand, sending out underground bud-bearing roots which produce new stems. It's estimated that in southern Alberta there's a five per cent annual loss of usable range which may be attributed to encroachment of aspen poplar, says Mr. Stearman. In central and northern Alberta the problem is at least equally severe.

Control of aspen re-growth requires an ongoing commitment by the range manager to set up and maintain a control program. One approach which works is mowing the encroaching brush on an annual basis, ideally during the late summer. Mowing could be done using a sickle bar or rotary brush mower. The practicality of a mowing operation depends on the suitability of the terrain for the use of such equipment.

Chemical treatment of first or second year aspen growth will also provide good control. The materials registered for this operation are 2,4-D or a tank mix of Banvel with 2,4-D. The method of application depends on the accessibility of application equipment. In locations where application equipment cannot be used, granular formulations of Banvel are available. It can be spread by hand if no other means of application is possible.

According to Mr. Stearman, the most important factor in controlling encroaching aspen brush is to develop a plan of continued vigilance and work.

- 30 -

Contact:

W.A. Stearman
427-5326

June 3, 1985

For immediate release

Take precautions when spraying for grasshoppers

If this year's grasshopper outbreak turns out to be as severe as expected, farmers will be turning to some very toxic insecticides for help in their battle against this pest.

Dr. Moe Hussain, Alberta Agriculture's pesticide specialist, encourages farmers to be extra careful and to take certain precautions when working with these chemicals.

A respirator is usually needed when tank-mixing or spraying these pesticides. Farmers should ask dealers for respirators with a charcoal cartridge specifically designed to absorb pesticides. A dust mask will not work. Disposable pesticide respirators may be used and discarded at the end of the season.

Gloves are also required when using pesticides for grasshopper control. Rubber gloves are preferable since chemicals will not penetrate them and they can be washed easily. Synthetic, cloth, leather or suede gloves are poor choices.

Goggles are also required when using grasshopper pesticides. They should allow the moisture from around the eyes to escape rather than stay in and fog up the lenses.

If the eyes are splashed with a pesticide while mixing, wash it out immediately. Consult a physician if redness, blisters or swelling of the eyes occur.

Coveralls should be worn when chemicals are tank-mixed or sprayed. They keep more than 90 per cent of the body from being exposed to the pesticides, says Dr. Hussain.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. Moe Hussain
427-4438

June 3, 1985

For immediate release

Turkey situation and outlook

In western Canada, a normal harvest in 1985 should improve turkey producer margins in the upcoming crop year, says Alberta Agriculture's poultry analyst, David Hope.

The Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency (CTMA) has increased the global quota slightly to just over 100 million kilograms.

Canadian turkey production totalled 20.7 million kilograms in the first four months of 1985, a decrease of 1.8 per cent from the comparable period one year ago. Tom production was unchanged and broiler production was up slightly.

Disappearance of turkey in the first quarter of 1985 totalled 20.8 million kilograms, 6.4 per cent below the level obtained one year ago. March sales were above year ago levels by about 2.8 million kilograms. April sales, however, fell by a greater amount. Although the CTMA had a turkey promotion in March, much of the increase in March sales can be explained by the early Easter holiday this year. The increased movement of toms continues as the most encouraging trend in the turkey industry.

In Alberta, total production of turkey in the first four months of this year, at 1.3 million kilograms was just slightly below that in the comparable period of 1984. The production of broilers was up by 10.9 per cent, and represented over one half of total production.

Alberta producers received less for their turkeys in the first four months of 1985 than in the last part of 1984. The prices, however, remained above the level received one year ago.

The turkey industry entered May without excessive storage stocks on hand. Supplies of both broilers and hens will be adequate and could support increased demand.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Turkey situation and outlook (cont'd)

Turkey is expected to continue facing increased competition from chicken. Red meat prices are not expected to move up much until mid-year. It's expected that broiler sales will continue at a disappointing level over the next few months, says Mr. Hope.

Producer prices for turkey are fairly dependent on feed costs as producers in central Canada attempt to set their price in accordance with a calculated cost of production. With a normal harvest in North America in 1985, feed costs are expected to remain low and may even drop from 1984-85 levels. Therefore, turkey prices are not expected to move up significantly.

- 30 -

Contact:

David Hope
427-5382

June 3, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta's Agricultural Exports

The value of Alberta's out-of-country exports of agricultural products in 1984 is estimated at $2,291 million, a 10.1 per cent increase over 1983. Agricultural exports from Canada as a whole increased by 8.2 per cent during the same period.

This information comes from a trade publication, *Alberta's Agricultural Exports - 1984,* compiled by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch. Nithi Govindasamy, trade statistician with the branch, points out that in 1984 products from Alberta accounted for approximately 21 per cent of total Canadian agricultural exports, an increase of 0.5 per cent from 1983.

In 1984, the U.S.S.R. was the leading importer of Alberta's agricultural commodities, purchasing an estimated $494 million worth of goods. Following the U.S.S.R., Alberta's most important trading partners were Japan ($461 million), the United States ($300 million), China ($160 million), Brazil ($83 million), East Germany ($76 million), India ($62 million) and the United Kingdom ($53 million).

Together, these eight countries purchased an estimated 74 per cent of Alberta's agricultural exports in 1984.

Alberta's other main buyers in 1984 were Cuba, Algeria, the Netherlands, Iraq, West Germany, South Korea and Mexico.

Copies of the publication, *Alberta's Agricultural Exports - 1984,* are available from the Statistics Branch, Alberta Agriculature, 3rd floor, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Nithi Govindasamy
427-4011

June 3, 1985

For immediate release

Fine tune your spray program

"Seeding time provides an excellent opportunity to map out weed infestations in your fields," says Bill Chapman, Alberta Agriculture's crop production specialist at Barrhead.

Identifying weed problems early and checking leaf stages ensures proper selection and timing of herbicide. It allows comparisons to be made of alternative herbicides for performance, crop tolerance and tank mixing options.

The 1985 *Guide to Crop Protection, Agdex 606-1,* outlines these comparisons. To receive a copy or to further analyse your selection, contact Alberta Agriculture district offices to reference the herbicide recommendation computer program.

Finally, follow label directions, calibrate your sprayer and rinse herbicide containers for the best dollar value from your herbicide investment, advises Mr. Chapman. Spot treating new or problem weeds will also save on herbicide costs.

- 30 -

Contact:

Bill Chapman
674-8258

June 3, 1985

For immediate release

Contract signed for construction of second phase of 4-H Centre

Left to right: Ed Ness, chairman, 4-H Foundation of Alberta; Harold Anderson, Vice chairman; Bob Boulton, president, 4-H Council; Findlay Johannson of J-5 Enterprises; and Allan Shenfield, Foundation director.

On May 3, 1985, the 4-H Foundation of Alberta signed a $160,000 contract with J-5 Enterprises of Red Deer to start construction of the dormitory facility at the 4-H Centre at Battle Lake. This building will eventually replace the tents and ATCO trailers presently being used for sleeping quarters.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Contract signed for construction of second phase of 4-H Centre (cont'd)

The exterior of the building and the washroom/shower facilities on the main floor will be finished this summer. The interior will be completed as moneys become available. The 40 foot by 92 foot, double-storey structure, is the second phase of the 4-H Foundation's permanent building program. The first phase, consisting of a kitchen and an assembly hall for 150 people, was built last summer by J-5 Enterprises.

- 30 -

Contact:

Gail Kent
427-2541

For immediate release

1985 Alberta pasture leasing fees

Alberta's farm pasture land leasing fees have remained stable over the past 12 months, except in the northern region, according to an annual survey carried out between February and April of this year by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch in a joint project with the farm business management branch.

The following table illustrates privately-owned pasture rental fees.

	Most Common 1984	Range 1985	Most Common 1985
South	$7 - $12/AUM $7 - $12/AC	$4 - $18/AUM $3.60 - $19/AC	$10 - $12/AUM $8 - $12.50/AC
Central	$8 - $10/AUM $6 - $13/AC	$6 - $12/AUM $3 - $30/AC	$6 - $10/AUM —
North	$5 - $10/AUM $5 - $12.50/AC	$1 - $8/AUM $3 - $25/AC	$2.20 - $4.45/AUM $4 - $15/AC

AUM= animal unit month

AC = acres

The south region of Alberta is the area from Olds south to the United States border, the central region is the area from Olds north to Edmonton, and the north region is the area north and west of Edmonton.

The great diversity in the quality of pastures rented in Alberta is one possible explanation for the wide range in rental fees, says Gerd Andres of the farm business management branch. He reports that the carrying capacity of the pastures surveyed varies from one animal unit per acre to one animal unit per 35 acres. On average the carrying capacity ranged from one animal unit per 2.5 acres to one animal unit per 7 acres. Mr. Andres also points out

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

that there are many different leasing arrangements. "In some cases the landlord pays for weed control, fencing, water, taxes or some portion of these, while in others the tenant is responsible for them." Also, the length of pasture leases varies from one year to as long as 10 years.

Pasture fees for non-irrigated provincial grazing reserves for 1985 range from $7.05 to $10.20 per animal unit per month. Winter grazing fees for horses have been set at $22.50 per horse per season.

Additional information on pasture leasing fees in Alberta and on custom rates for all types of farming operations can be obtained from district agriculturists, Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch in Edmonton (427-4018) and the farm business management branch in Olds (556-4247).

- 30 -

Contact:

Gerd Andres
556-4247

June 3, 1985

For immediate release

Agri-food development branch head appointed

Don Macyk is Alberta Agriculture's new agri-food development branch head. The appointment, which was effective May 21, 1985, was announced by Dennis Glover, director of marketing services.

As head of the branch, Mr. Macyk will support the development of Alberta's commodity sector helping identify potential markets. The branch provides manpower services and financial assistance in the areas of grains, oilseeds, livestock and meat and dairy industries.

Mr. Macyk has a broad agricultural background with experience in communications, market analysis and international marketing. He has been a supervisor with the agricultural processing development branch since 1982.

- 30 -

Contact:

Don Macyk
427-7366

June 3, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Environmental Centre open house

The Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville will hold an open house on Friday, June 14 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The theme of the event is 'Chemicals in the Environment'. Displays and demonstrations of special interest to farmers will be those on plant diseases, weed science and entomology.

For more information on the open house, contact Jim Bradley at 632-6761.

- 30 -

Contact:

Jim Bradley
632-6761

AGRI-NEWS

CANADIANA
JUN 26 1985

June 10, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Grasshopper Control Assistance Program announced 1
Deadline extended for summer farm employment program. 4
Alberta 4-H'ers to attend Indiana conference 5
Directory of Alberta market gardeners now available 6
Alberta Market Gardener's Association formed. 7
It pays to supplement trace minerals on pasture 8
Beekeepers' field day at Fairview College 10
The 'Dirty Dozen' . . . . . 12 common mistakes in pesticide use. 11
Wheat dominates agricultural exports 15
Sugar situation and outlook 16

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 10, 1985

For immediate release

Grasshopper Control Assistance Program announced

On June 4, 1985, Alberta's Minister of Agriculture announced a $6.6 million program to help producers offset the cost of insecticides needed to control the current grasshopper outbreak in the province.

Under the Alberta Grasshopper Control Assistance Program 1985, producers can claim 50 per cent of the cost of eligible chemicals purchased to control grasshoppers. To accommodate producers who have already sprayed their fields, the program will be made retroactive to May 1, 1985 for the purpose of chemical purchases.

In making the announcement, Mr. Fjordbotten said, "Alberta producers, and prairie farmers in general, are facing the largest grasshopper outbreak since the early 1960s. Considering the potential consequences of this situation, a grasshopper control program became necessary."

Last year, an estimated 750,000 acres were sprayed to control grasshoppers in Alberta. Based on surveys that have been conducted, it's now estimated there will be a substantial increase in the severely infested acreage this year, up almost tenfold from 183,274 acres in 1984 to an estimated 1.79 million acres in 1985.

"In 1984, the cost of grasshcpper control chemicals was sufficiently high to discourage some producers from adequately protecting their crops," said Mr. Fjordbotten. "With much higher grasshopper populations forecast for this year, the cost to farmers who must treat the same fields several times in the growing season could prove crippling in some instances."

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Grasshopper Control Assistance Program announced (cont'd)

"In view of this," stated the Minister, "and in view of the importance of farmers getting off a good crop this year, we don't want to see an abnormal expense prevent producers from taking advantage of an excellent opportunity to improve their cash flow, some for the first time in several seasons."

"Department specialists think the grasshopper populations are near their peak, and this program may be sufficient to get farmers through the worst year in the current grasshopper cycle," said Mr. Fjordbotten.

Historically, Alberta has not treated more than 2 million acres for grasshoppers in any one outbreak, and the Grasshopper Control Assistance Program was developed with that upper limit in mind.

Alberta Agriculture will continue to monitor the situation throughout the season.

"We have 56 monitoring locations located throughout the province, which allow us to release regular reports on local conditions," said the Minister. "This data, combined with the information we obtain from the control program, should prove very valuable in assessing the economics of grasshopper control in future from a scientific point of view."

Agricultural Service Boards (ASBs), who are in the best position to assess conditions, will be asked to handle applications for the program.

Applications will be submitted through local ASBs, and will be subject to verification by a locally designated official. In most instances, this would be an agricultural fieldman.

Receipts for the purchase of chemicals registered for grasshopper control must accompany the application. In addition, information such as the legal land description of the area treated, the number of acres sprayed, the insecticide used and the date of treatment must be submitted. The same information will be required for producers who have elected to use a custom applicator.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Grasshopper control assistance program announced (cont'd)

Chemical used to treat land on road allowances adjacent to the landowner's property is also eligible under the program.

The deadline for producers to submit applications is November 30, 1985.

For further information, producers should contact their local district agricultural office or agricultural fieldman.

- 30 -

Contact:

Keith Price
427-5330

June 10, 1985

For immediate release

Deadline extended for summer farm employment program

The deadline for the Alberta Summer Farm employment program, has been extended to June 14, 1985.

The program, running July 2 through August 31, 1985 provides valuable farm work experience for Alberta youth.

"There are still some positions available but anyone interested should apply right away," says Bernie Yakimyshyn, Alberta Agriculture's coordinator of special employment programs.

Under the program any Alberta farmer can hire a student, provided they and the student are not related. The Alberta government will pay half the student's monthly salary up to a maximum of $300.

Prospective students must be at least 15 years old and they must have the written consent of their parents if they are under 18. Applicants must be residents of Alberta for the last three consecutive years, and they must be legally entitled to work in Canada. They must also be prepared to work for at least one month and to attend one of Alberta Agriculture's farm safety seminars.

Employee and employer application forms are available from district agriculturists and from Canada farm labor pool offices.

Further information on the Alberta Summer Farm Employment Program can be obtained from Bernie Yakimyshyn, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone 427-2186.

- 30 -

Contact:

Bernie Yakimyshyn
427-2186

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 10, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta 4-H'ers to attend Indiana conference

Two 4-H'ers, Todd McKinnon of Airdrie and Heather Brown of Big Valley, will attend an awards banquet in Calgary on June 15, 1985 as a prelude to a 10-day 4-H conference in Indiana.

The 18-year olds will be honored at the awards dinner which is sponsored by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC).

"They were selected to attend the conference because of their outstanding involvement in 4-H and their communities," says Delin Sheehan, 4-H summer exchange co-ordinator at Alberta Agriculture's Airdrie office.

On June 16, the 4-H'ers will fly to Indiana to attend the 1985 Indiana State 4-H Junior Leader conference at the Hoosier 4-H Centre near West Lafayette. After participating in the five-day leadership program, McKinnon and Brown will spend a weekend with a host family in a nearby county. They will then participate in the Indiana State 4-H Roundup at Purdue University.

McKinnon and Brown will have the opportunity to learn about 4-H in the United States, meet new friends and experience a countryside very different from Alberta's.

- 30 -

Contact:

Delin Sheehan
948-5101

June 10, 1985

For immediate release

Directory of Alberta market gardeners now available

Market gardening, the growing of vegetables and small fruit for sale directly to the consumer, is not new.

Within the last decade market gardening in Alberta has developed to industry size, with some 300 producers growing in excess of 1700 acres of crops, says Lloyd Hausher, market garden specialist at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks.

These vegetables and small fruit are sold at Farmers' Markets, can be bought ready-picked at the farm gate or consumers can pick their own.

The 1985 edition of the publication *Alberta Market Gardeners* is now available to help identify Alberta's market gardeners.

It lists approximately 200 market gardeners in Alberta according to area. These areas are Peace River, Bonnyville, Fort McMurray, Edmonton, Red Deer, Drumheller, Calgary, Lethbridge, Taber, Brooks and Medicine Hat.

The directory contains the names of producers, their telephone numbers, directions to the gardens, the method (pick-your-own or farm gate), and the main fruit and vegetable crops grown.

Copies of Alberta Market Gardeners are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices, travel centres, the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6; and the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO.

- 30 -

Contact:

Lloyd Hausher
362-3391

June 10, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Market Gardener's Association formed

The Alberta Market Gardener's Association is a promotional, educational and service oriented association which was formed this May to help Alberta's market gardeners.

Lloyd Hausher, the association's secretary treasurer, says they hope to promote the industry so that more consumers are aware of locally grown produce.

A toll-free consumer hotline has been approved which will allow consumers from anywhere in Alberta to find out what vegetables are available and where they can buy them.

The association plans to hold educational programs to assist market gardeners in growing and marketing their crops. And, it hopes to offer signs and bags at discount prices to members.

Full memberships are available only to producers meeting market garden qualifications (i.e., selling direct to consumers) and cost $30. Associate memberships cost $15, and are available to employees of active members, horticultural trade firms, commercial vegetable producers, or any person interested in the market garden industry.

For membership application forms write to: Alberta Market Gardener's Association, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, T0J 0J0.

- 30 -

Contact:

Lloyd Hausher
362-3391

June 10, 1985

For immediate release

It pays to supplement trace minerals on pasture

Most feed grown in Alberta will not meet the needs of cattle for several trace minerals, says Rick Corbett, with Alberta Agriculture's beef cattle and sheep branch.

Iodine and cobalt have been known to be deficient for many years. Supplementation for these elements in the form of blue salt is the most common method used to overcome deficiencies. Zinc and copper levels are low in 90 per cent of the harvested forages in the province and also appear to be low in pastures. In feed from many areas of the province selenium is also below levels needed to meet cattle requirements.

Cattle that graze pastures deficient in copper, zinc and selenium most often show no obvious symptoms of deficiency, however, recent research by Alberta Agriculture indicates that an economic loss is probable through reductions in weight gain.

In a southern Alberta trial in which yearlings were supplemented with trace mineralized salt, the heifers gained an extra 14 pounds over the pasture season and steers gained an extra 26 pounds compared with similar groups which were fed blue salt.

In another trial in north central Alberta, supplemented steers gained 37 pounds more than unsupplemented steers. Similar responses have been achieved in Alberta with an increase in weaning weight of 12 pounds in a trial in which cow/calf pairs were fed trace mineralized salt over those fed blue salt.

Trace mineralized salt costs a little more than blue salt. It will cost $1.50 to $2.00 per head for 140 days on pasture. This is approximately $1.00 to $1.50 per head more than feeding block salt and 20 to 30 cents more per head than feeding other kinds of loose salt over the pasture season.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

It pays to supplement trace minerals on pasture (cont'd)

''When the potential benefits in increased weight gains are compared against the modest extra cost of supplementing trace elements, the conclusion is simple — it doesn't cost, it pays,'' reports Mr. Corbett.

Not all trace mineralized salt products are recommended for use on trace mineral deficient pastures. The trace mineralized salt products contain at least 0.25 per cent copper and 0.75 per cent zinc. These products are also available with selenium. Other kinds of salt should not be fed when trace mineralized salt is used.

- 30 -

Contact:

R.R. Corbett
436-9150

June 10, 1985

For immediate release

Beekeepers' field day at Fairview College

This year, the Alberta Beekeepers' Association is holding its annual field day in conjunction with Fairview College on Saturday, June 15.

Fairview College is known for its beekeeper technician program and the production of the Alta Bee strain of honeybee queens.

Highlights of the field day, which starts at 9:00 a.m., include tours of the new extracting facilities, a trip to the queen rearing and mating yards and demonstrations on various hive management techniques. Beekeepers should bring their veils.

There will be films and hay rides for youngsters. Those attending can bring a picnic lunch or eat in the college cafeteria.

Fairview College is located on the southern edge of Fairview on Highway 2, about 60 miles north of Grande Prairie.

Beekeepers may also want to attend the Beaverlodge Research Station beekeepers' field day which is scheduled for Friday, June 14.

- 30 -

Contact:

Louise Zwaenepoel – 475-3314
Dennis McKenna – 835-6633
Richard Kemp – 523-3027

June 10, 1985

For immediate release

The 'Dirty Dozen' . . . . . 12 common mistakes in pesticide use

Sanitation is one of the most important means of pest control. But according to Ulf Soehngen with the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks, no matter how careful a grower may be, there will always be times when pesticides are needed to do the job . . . if they work.

All too often, failure to achieve the desired control can be traced to basic errors in the handling and application of pesticides; errors that are sometimes so basic that they are easily overlooked. Following is a list of the more common errors, arranged in the order in which pesticide decisions, applications and follow-ups are often made.

1. **Incorrect diagnosis** may lead to the use of the wrong or an ineffective pesticide. Most pest-related problems fall into specific categories relative to cause, such as fungal or bacterial diseases, or damage caused by chewing or sucking insects. Since nearly all modern pesticides are specific with reference to the types of pests controlled, it's essential to obtain a proper match. The "by guess or by gosh" method of pest control is a waste of both cash and time; by the time an appropriate control is found, the crop may be lost.

To avoid such frustrations, growers should be encouraged to make full use of the agricultural expertise available to them, including district agriculturists, crop specialists, regional diagnostic laboratories and others.

2. **Inadequate product knowledge** — The complicated chemistry of modern pesticides often causes quirks in their behaviour that must be taken into consideration "to get one's money's worth" of control. For example, some products require a spreader-sticker,

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

The 'Dirty Dozen' . . . . 12 common mistakes in pesticide use (cont'd)

while others work best at low temperatures but fail miserably under warmer conditions. READ THE LABEL! Pesticide labels provide most of the important information about pesticide products, but trade journals, crop specialists and chemical dealers are other important sources of information.

3. **Poor timing of application** may result in wasted effort and material. In the life cycles of most pests, there is a period when the pest is most susceptible to pesticide application. Often, this occurs just before the pest population is about to go through a rapid population build-up. Failure to control the pest at this time may result in a run-away away problem and considerable crop loss. Conversely, the application of a pesticide for a specific pest before that pest is present in the crop, wastes chemical, time and labor.

4. **Improper tank mixes . . . . . or mixing** often leads to frustration. The application of several pesticides at one time saves time and labor, if done properly. However, the complexity of modern pesticides may result in unexpected chemical combinations and the settling out of one compound or another, clogged pumps, pipes and nozzles, and a host of other problems. To avoid such problems, here are several suggestions: a) Read the label, b) when working with a new combination, try a small batch first, c) use only one liquid or emulsifiable concentrate in a mixture, d) mix each pesticide in a separate batch, then add this to the half-full tank slowly, and e) add the spreader-sticker last.

5. Using **Outdated pesticides** — Like wine or whiskey, modern pesticides age. However, unlike wine or whiskey, pesticides lose effectiveness on aging. Labels will often warn of this, but not always. However, the physical appearance of a product often offers clues. Is it off color? Have the liquid components separated? Are powders lumpy? Does the product mix well with water? To be safe, don't use products over two years old.

- (cont'd) -

The 'Dirty Dozen' . . . . 12 common mistakes in pesticide use (cont'd)

6. **Lack of attention paid to weather** — Weather factors often affect the crop response to a pesticide. For example, some crops become more sensitive under warm, dry conditions; a spray at this time could result in phytotoxicity. Or hot conditions, directly after spraying, may evaporate the water from the spray droplets, concentrating the chemical and sometimes resulting in burn spots.

7. **Improper rate of chemical application** — Too concentrated a mixture may result in phytotoxicity; too little active ingredient in the spray mixture will result in low or no pest kill. Follow the label directions implicitly. Where concentrations are given, for example, grams active ingredient/100 L water, spray to run-off.

8. **Poor coverage of plant material** — Pesticides work by contacting the pest or by covering the plant surfaces likely to become infested. Spraying the top surfaces of leaves for pests that feed on the lower leaf surfaces will result in little or no kill, unless the pesticide is systemic. Therefore, it's important not only to identify the pest correctly, but also to be aware of its habits and life cycle, so that the pesticide can be applied for maximum contact with the pest.

9. **Failure to apply follow-up sprays, if required** — A single application rarely eliminates all individuals of a pest. Frequently, a pesticide is effective only on certain stages, such as adults and young larvae. And, as the plants grow, new leaves previously not covered with pesticides are formed. These and similar situations frequently require follow-up applications of pesticide in order to prevent rapid recovery of the pest populations.

10. **Poor or nonexistent record keeping** — Accurate records are essential, even where only one person in an operation applied pesticide chemicals. Memory is fallible; good records will assist in determining the reason for a pest control failure or success, so that certain procedures and chemicals can be eliminated or repeated. Records are also important in determining the economic feasibility of using certain procedures and chemicals.

- (cont'd) -

The 'DirtyDozen' . . . . 12 common mistakes in pesticide use (cont'd)

11. **Incomplete drainage and cleaning of spray equipment** — Spray equipment is expensive, and most pesticides are corrosive in one way or another. The residual left in a tank or line from a previous spray operation can cause a variety of problems, from clogged lines and nozzles to unwanted and sometimes toxic chemical reactions. Clean your equipment and save your frustrations for situations you cannot change!

12. **Too much reliance on pesticides for pest control** — Good pest control requires an overall integrated approach. Attention must be paid to environmental control, sanitation, and crop vigor. If these are in line, pest control will not pose any unusual problems.

- 30 -

Contact:

Ulf Soehngen
363-3391

June 10, 1985

For immediate release

Wheat dominates agricultural exports

Wheat exports from Alberta continued to be the largest agricultural export earner for the province in 1984 accounting for over 50 per cent of the total value of exports.

This information comes from a trade publication, *Alberta Agricultural Exports 1984,* compiled by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch. Nithi Govindasamy, trade statistician with the branch points out that in 1984, wheat alone contributed $1.16 billion to the estimated total of $2.29 billion in agricultural exports.

Canola and its products (oil and meal) accounted for more than $390 million or 17 per cent of estimated export earnings. Although the value of barley exports from Alberta fell by 25 per cent from 1983, it continues to be an important export crop, contributing an estimated $286 million to total export earnings. Reduced production and stocks rather than loss of export markets contributed to the decline in Alberta barley sales.

The value of live cattle exports increased over 60 per cent from $58 million in 1983 to an estimated $94 million in 1984, while the value of live hog exports showed a dramatic four-fold increase from $9 million to $40 million. This increase was mainly due to record shipments of live cattle and hogs to the United States in 1984. Other important agricultural exports in 1984 were beef, pork, horsemeat, cattle hides, dehydrated alfalfa, honey, barley malt, tallow and peat moss.

- 30 -

Contact:

Nithi Govindasamy
427-4011

June 10, 1985

For immediate release

Sugar situation and outlook

World sugar prices are likely to fluctuate around the 3 cents (US) per pound mark for the rest of 1985 and may show a modest increase in 1986. According to Fred Boyce, Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst, a significant decrease in world stocks is needed before sugar prices will return to more reasonable levels.

Consumption trends, while increasing worldwide, have not kept up with the increases in productivity. Increased usage levels are expected in most of the less developed and centrally planned countries, but declining patterns in the major developed countries will limit the overall consumption increase to less than one per cent above the 1983-84 total. Increased substitution by corn based sweeteners and low or non-caloric sweeteners namely saccarin and aspartame is largely responsible for the reduction in refined sugar usage. As well, increasingly diet-conscious populations in these countries have led to a stable or static level of sweetener usage on a per capita basis.

The Canadian sugar industry is dominated by imported raw cane sugar. Sugar from sugarbeet production in Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta amounts to less than 15 per cent of Canadian consumption on a raw sugar basis. Statistics Canada estimated 1984 sugarbeet production at 932,000 tonnes, 20 per cent less than in 1983. Reduced acreage in Quebec and poor yields in the two prairie provinces led to the production decrease.

In the prairie provinces, 1984 acreage levels were virtually unchanged from the previous year.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch
Phone: (403) 427-2121

Sugar situation and outlook (cont'd)

Alberta production dropped substantially in 1984. Contracted acreage levels at 32,000 acres were unchanged from a year earlier, but exceptionally poor harvest weather led to the production shortfall. The final tally by the sugar processing plant showed slightly more than 513,000 tonnes of beets were delivered, which was better than previously expected. Sugar content, however, was below normal. The distressed world price for raw sugar will result in lower prices for the 1984 sugarbeet crop.

In Alberta, no sugarbeets will be grown during 1985. The processing plant at Taber has closed for this year following an impasse in negotiations between the growers and processor. As a result, sugarbeet production in Canada is expected to drop by 40 to 50 per cent.

Very poor returns for sugarbeets have spurred interest in a national sugar program or policy, but nothing definite has taken place yet. Grower returns for the 1984 Alberta sugarbeet crop are not expected to exceed $32 per tonne, a return that is not adequate for either grower or processor.

- 30 -

Contact:

Fred Boyce
427-5383

AGRI-NEWS

June 17, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Applications now being accepted for 1986 shelterbelt program 1

How to set up tramlines 3

Banding increases efficiency of nitrogen fertilizers 6

Surviving the squeeze 8

Oilseed situation and outlook 12

Feedgrain summary and outlook. 14

Wheat situation and outlook 15

Respirators needed when spraying grasshopper insecticides. 16

Provincial coordinator at Olds appointed 17

ADC financial analyst appointed. 18

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

For immediate release

Applications now being accepted for 1986 shelterbelt program

The last trees in the 1985 shelterbelt program were shipped from the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre on May 21. According to Herman Oosterhuis, shelterbelt specialist, the Centre handled 7830 orders this year, shipping a total of 2.4 million trees to destinations throughout the province.

Not wasting any time, applications for the next year's shipping season are already being accepted. The deadline for submitting applications for shelterbelt trees for 1986 spring planting is November 1, 1985. Properly completed application forms should be submitted through Alberta Agriculture district offices.

"It's important to apply early for best selection," advises Mr. Oosterhuis," the date of application establishes your priority in getting the trees you request."

One policy change for the 1986 program is that applicants must be "farmers" to be eligible to receive trees for farmstead shelterbelts, field wind breaks and roadside hedges. Farmers are defined as those individuals who are primary producers of crops and livestock.

In applying, the farmer agrees to pay shipping costs, to use the trees only for shelterbelts, to summerfallow the planting site and maintain the plantation at all times in well cultivated condition, and to allow inspection of the planting site by a district agriculturist or agricultural fieldman.

Applicants can expect written confirmation of their order in late December. If the tree nursery is unable to supply farmers with all of the trees they requested this year, they will ship the balance of the order the following year.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Applications now being accepted for 1986 shelterbelt program (cont'd)

For assistance in determining their shelterbelt requirements, farmers should consult their district agriculturist. An illustrated catalogue of shelterbelt species which describes the merits and recommended usage of each is available at district offices. District offices also have the list of shelterbelt trees stating their availability from which farmers can choose when filling out their application form.

For further information on planning shelterbelts, the pamphlet *Planting Farm, Field and Roadside Shelterbelts in Alberta,* Agdex 276/22 is available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Herman Oosterhuis
973-3351

June 17, 1985

For immediate release

How to set up tramlines

According to some information recently released by Saskatchewan Agriculture, tramlines could be a good means of maximizing a farmer's return on his cereal and oilseed crops. Dr. Ieuan Evans, of Alberta Agriculture's plant industry division, believes some Alberta farmers could benefit from this technique as well.

High yields can only be achieved by carefully monitoring the crop during the entire growing period and providing the necessary treatments to maintain a healthy condition. In most cases, this may mean applications of nitrogen and the use of a growth regulators, fungicides, herbicides and insecticides. Many of these applications will have to be made at a late stage of crop development and as quickly and accurately as possible.

The principle of tramlines is to match the working widths of spreaders and sprayers with that of the drill so that all subsequent operations can be carried out along the tracks laid at drilling. The working width of the drill must first be established by calculating the number of rows sown by row width. This must then be related to the working widths of sprayer boom and spreader and adjustments made where necessary to obtain a simple multitude of drill passes to working widths of sprayer and spreader to enable the tramlines to be placed at appropriate intervals.

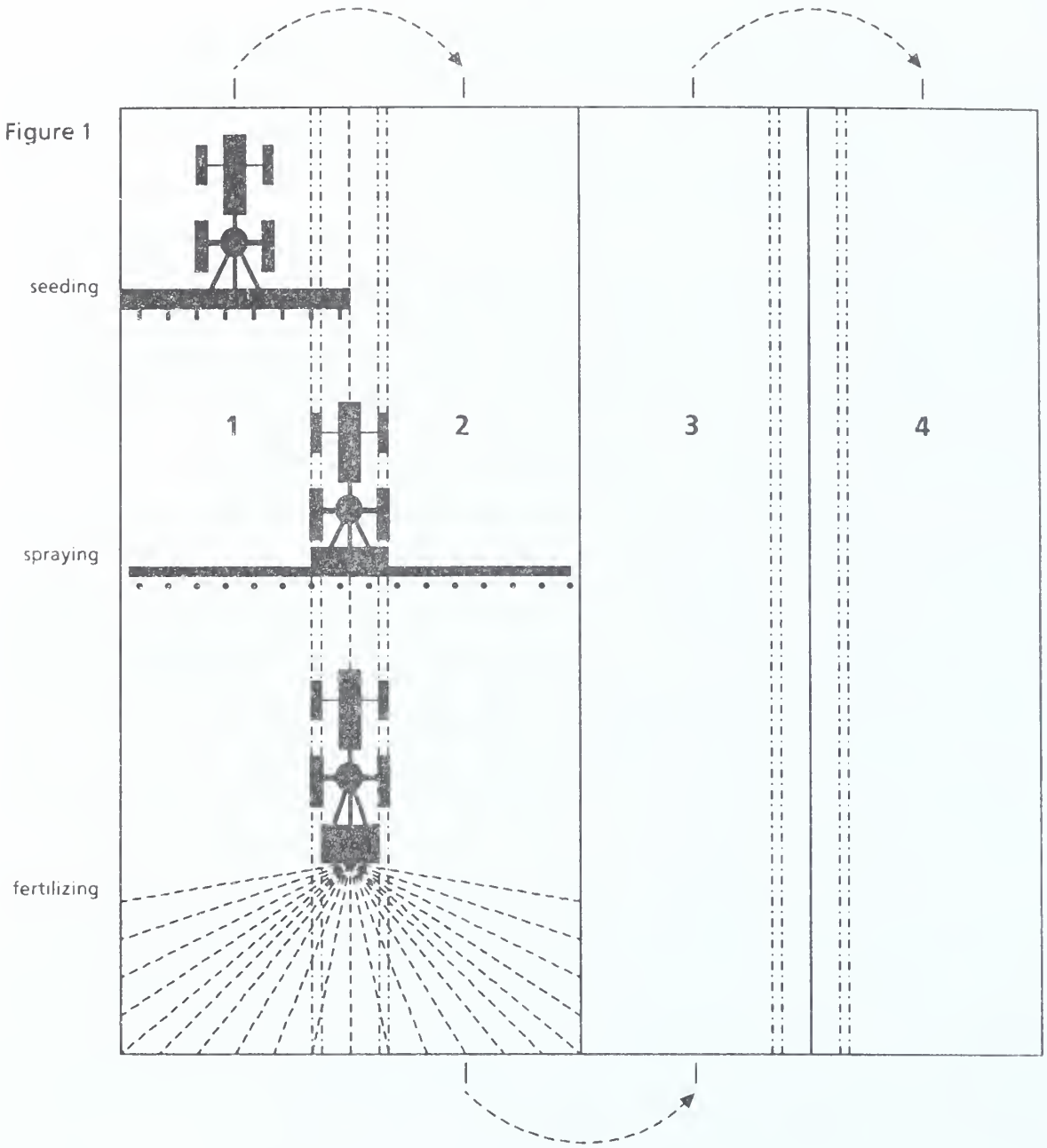
The main advantages of tramlines are accuracy and speed. It eliminates missed strips and double dosed areas giving maximum benefit from fertilizer and pesticide sprays and all applications can be made at late stages without damage to the crop. These factors ensure that all necessary operations can be carried out as and when needed. There are no lower yields to be expected because the plant rows beside the tramlines generally compensate for the yield loss through better plant development.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Figure 1



How to set up tramlines (cont'd)

The simplest, but not normally recommended, method to achieve tramlines is to permanently block off the two coulters (or drill hoes) behind each tractor wheel which leaves two gaps at each pass. However, this provides more tramlines than necessary for subsequent operations and leaves a large area unsown.

Alternatively, a single coulter may be blocked. This coulter should be the one which is half the tractor wheel track from the end of the drill. This puts in one tramline going up the field and the other coming back. (see Figure 1). The coulter may be left open permanently or blocked on the appropriate two passes to provide tramlines to match spraying and spreading equipment.

The technique is still in its infancy in Canada and the United States but with an increased awareness of the advantages and greater standardization of equipment, tramlining could become part of the normal farm routine for the grain grower.

- 30 -

Contact:

Ieuan Evans
427-5350

For immediate release

Banding increases efficiency of nitrogen fertilizers

Putting nitrogen fertilizers in a concentrated band below the soil surface can result in greater yields than leaving it on top. This is one of the findings of a four-year field experiment at the Lethbridge Research Station.

Initially, anhydrous ammonia was compared with broadcast urea and ammonium nitrate as an effective source of nitrogen for barley. "After several seasons, we noticed that plots fertilized with anhydrous ammonia consistently outyielded plots receiving urea and ammonium nitrate by 10 and 5 per cent, respectively," reports Dr. Kucey, soil fertility specialist at the Lethbridge research station.

The experiment was later modified to band the granular fertilizers to see if anhydrous ammonia was a superior source of nitrogen or if the method of application was more important. When banded, yields from all plots were the same, regardless of the type of fertilizer added, and these yields were greater than from plots where the same forms and rate of nitrogen were broadcast.

The difference in effectiveness of broadcast fertilizers is probably due to their chemical properties. Urea is known to break down on exposure to soil to form ammonia gas. If the soil surface is dry, the ammonia gas is not dissolved in water and will volatilize. Placing the fertilizer below the surface puts it in direct contact with soil moisture so the losses from urea are reduced. In addition, the concentration of fertilizers in a band reduces absorption of nitrogen by soil microorganisms and leaves more for crop uptake.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Banding increases efficiency of nitrogen fertilizers (cont'd)

According to Dr. Kucey, this research has several important implications. First, if nitrogen fertilizer is to be banded, then the producer can use whichever nitrogen source is cheapest or most convenient. Second, if nitrogen fertilizer must be broadcast, then ammonium nitrate should be used in preference to urea as its volatilization is much less, especially if used on pastures, winter wheat, alfalfa, or lawns where the fertilizer cannot be worked into the soil.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. R.M.N. Kucey
327-4561

June 10, 1985

For immediate release

Surviving the squeeze

Management practices in industry, commerce and agriculture tended towards low liquidity in the seventies. A generation of successful managers learned how to use debt and interest rates below the inflation rate as a lever for farm growth.

"Leverage can benefit a cautious manager in a booming and growing economy," says George Maicher of the farm business management branch at Olds "but it can seriously endanger a business in a recession."

Managing during cost/price squeeze times means farmers have to either cut costs or raise revenues. To raise revenues, farmers may still feel they can make a profit by using outside capital in their farm operation. However, they should consider financing alternatives such as leasing, producing commodities on contract or selling assets not necessary for the survival of the farm.

Liquidating assets for partial or total debt repayment is one way of dealing with liabilities. Drawing on reserves and selling assets such as machinery usually come first, while selling capital such as land is considered as a last resort. The selling of assets can only provide temporary relief by adding to available cash. Since equipment purchases have often been postponed, this process cannot go on indefinitely without affecting the farm's viability. Also, a farmer cannot expect to realize as much from the sale of assets as he once could, and might have to be prepared to sell land below acquisition cost.

Here are some other good management practices farmers can adopt to survive the "squeeze" and to cope with high costs and low revenues:

- Stay liquid.
- Be a lender rather than a borrower.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Surviving the squeeze (cont'd)

- If excess funds are available, use it for term deposits.
- Follow the Japanese example: keep inventory low and buy only on an "as required" basis.
- Avoid expanding your operation if profitability is not assured.
- Use credit only for productive purposes and don't speculate on capital gain.
- If you decide to invest money in your farm business, make sure existing resources such as machinery and labor can effectively handle the operation.
- Keep good cost records on all farm enterprises. Either scale down or shut down unprofitable areas in the operation. Cut losses by leaving a livestock facility empty rather than losing additional money on every animal that is sold.
- Discuss your plans with your accountant if you intend to discontinue a particular operation. Many farmers believe that selling off a part of their farm will result in a difficult tax situation. An accountant may be able to solve some of these potential tax liabilities, and thereby enable you to concentrate your efforts on your money-making enterprise.
- Make full use of district agriculturists, regional farm specialists and other accessible and knowledgeable people. Good advice is probably more important today than ever before.
- Figure out how much it costs to hold grain or other inventory and compare that cost with price expectations for the product. Check price forecasts and see whether the changes of price improvements are enough to warrant holding grain or livestock. In times of high interest rates, it's expensive to hold products on inventory.
- Develop a marketing plan and incorporate the different strategies available such as hedging and forward contracting. Consider using the services of marketing specialists and consultants, but avoid being a speculator. Don't try to sell today at yesterday's prices!
- Consider shifting some resources to production processes with a faster turnaround, e.g., a small hog operation may pay off if it brings grain to market several months earlier. The interest costs of storage can be considerable when one considers the cost of carrying on an operating loan over several months.

- (cont'd) -

Surviving the squeeze (cont'd)

- See if you can sell some of your grain as seed or use your machinery for custom work. Consider off-farm employment.
- List everything you own but are not using. You may have some special equipment for a machine you no longer operate. Dispose of unnecessary items. The gain in cash may well offset the loss of capital cost allowance.
- Consider selling land that is of no particular benefit to the survival of your farm. Selling it now might tide you over until better times.
- Reduce risk on rented land by using a crop-share lease with input costs shared with the landlord.
- Lock in as many costs as possible at a rate you can afford. These could be feed costs, interest and so forth. This procedure will reduce the chances of reaping a windfall profit, but it will also reduce your risk.
- Re-examine past decisions regarding buying or making farm equipment. Conditions and original decision criteria may have changed.
- Use crop insurance to reduce risk of loss.
- Reduce the purchase of new fixed assets to only those that are essential to secure cash flow.
- Consider delaying the purchase of supplies. Although input prices are rising, it may still be advantageous to pay off debts now. The prepurchase of supplies now might seriously stretch your available cash and harm your liquidity.
- Consider your tax situation before buying machinery or prepurchasing supplies. If you have no tax liability, your best bet may be to defer purchases. If you are in a high tax bracket, then the purchase price is actually much lower than what you pay for it.
- Soil test your land and apply fertilizers in accordance with recommendations. Adjust these recommendations if you decide to apply manure as well. Remember, the highest net return does not always come from the highest yielding crop. An additional bushel of grain obtained by the use of extra fertilizer could cost you dearly when input costs are high.
- Make time available for financial management and priority planning.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Surviving the squeeze (cont'd)

- Pay outstanding bills as late as possible within the limits required to maintain your credit rating and good relations with your suppliers. Good office management will ensure that your bills are paid on the latest date prior to incurring a penalty. Take advantage whenever possible of cash discounts for prompt payment.
- Read farm journals, newspapers and newsletters.
- Check out assistance and grant programs from all levels of government.
- Estimate your fertilizer and chemical requirements and ask area suppliers to bid for it.
- Improving machinery maintenance will allow you to postpone machinery purchasers.

Following the cardinal rule of Japanese management and eliminating waste in a farm business will make for a leaner, fitter operation better able to stand up to the rigors of the current stresses in the agricultural economy. It will also allow a manager to take advantage of an upturn as soon as it arrives.

- 30 -

Contact:

George Maicher
Olds
556-4249

June 17, 1985

For immediate release

Oilseed situation and outlook

Canola prices are expected to weaken in Canada along with prices in the United States and elsewhere in the world, says Alberta Agriculture grains analyst, Dwayne Couldwell.

World oilseed supply situation remains burdensome, especially in the case of meals. The 1984-85 production of oilseeds is still estimated at a record 187.2 million tonnes, up 12.4 per cent from 1983-84. The largest increase in production this year has occurred in soybeans and cottonseed.

World oil supplies, in contrast to meal, remain reasonably tight as a result of a stable and growing world demand. World oil consumption has been growing by more than four per cent annually over the past eight years.

Canadian canola production for 1984 was set by Statistics Canada at 3,246,000 tonnes based on an average yield of 19.4 bushels per acre. The record yield was achieved in 1977, when the average Canadian yield was 24.2 bushels per acre.

"It's important to note, however, that this record was achieved on only 3.6 million acres, as opposed to the 7.4 million in 1984," says Mr. Couldwell, "There's growing concern that as the canola acreage exceeds 6.5 million acres, then canola is being grown in areas less than ideally suited for it."

Exports are currently running well behind last year; as of May 1, canola exports are 11.6 per cent behind. The decline is the result of larger European production. Canadian canola exports are expected to struggle to 1,375,000 tonnes and will be almost exclusively to Japan. Japan is expected to import a new record 1.3 million tonnes from Canada this year, accounting for 95 per cent of exports.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch
Phone: (403) 427-2121

Oilseed situation and outlook (cont'd)

Domestic use has been an "on again, off again" process this year, reports Mr. Couldwell. As of early May the domestic use of canola was running at one per cent ahead of last year.

In spite of the record imports from Japan and modest increases in domestic crush, production will far exceed consumption. Ending stocks will build to 465 million tonnes, which will be four times that of last year.

For 1985-86, canola acres are expected to decline by five to eight per cent. This, together with normal yields of 21 to 22 bushels per acre, will produce a crop equal to 1984-85.

The USDA is forecasting a 2.5 per cent price decline for soybeans, and a 6.5 per cent decline for soyoil for 1985-86. Canola will probably suffer more than soyoil given the premiums enjoyed for much of this year, and the increased supplies of 1985-86.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dwayne Couldwell
427-5386

June 10, 1985

For immediate release

Feedgrain summary and outlook

According to Alberta Agriculture grains analyst, Dwayne Couldwell, Canadian barley prices are expected to fall sharply as they catch up with world prices.

United States production remains burdensome and prices low. While the record Soviet imports have helped, they have not been enough to relieve the surplus.

Early forecasts call for a larger U.S. corn crop in 1985-86, which would result in even lower prices next year. As in the case of wheat, the loan rate on corn is providing a measure of support.

This support, however, is being eroded by the debate over farm policy, which is threatening to reduce world prices. The two important areas currently under debate include the future level of loan and target prices and the possibility of the U.S. subsidizing exports in order to reduce government held surpluses.

The latest survey conducted by Statistics Canada indicated that farmers intend to increase their barley acreage by 6.6 per cent. As in the case of wheat, however, this survey was conducted before farmers knew the initial payments would be reduced by $15 per tonne. This rather large decrease in barley initials should dampen farmers' enthusiasm for barley. A more modest 4 to 5 per cent increase is expected.

Production for 1985-86 should reach 13 million tonnes.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dwayne Couldwell
427-5386

June 17, 1985

For immediate release

Wheat situation and outlook

World wheat markets remain under pressure in spite of the record level of Soviet imports. Very little relief is expected next year, since the USDA expects the 1985-86 world wheat crop to exceed last year's record and reach 519.7 million tonnes. Soviet crops are expected to increase considerably in 1985-86 and as a result their imports will fall substantially.

The Canadian wheat situation is almost the reverse of the situation elsewhere in the world, says Dwayne Couldwell, Alberta Agriculture's grains analyst. With the 1984 drought on the prairies, Canada has had no difficulty in selling its wheat supplies.

The carryover of wheat in Canada will be the lowest in 20 years. Total supplies therefore will show a more modest increase and allow exports to return to the 20 million tonnes plus area of 1982-83 and 1983-84, but still not cause a significant build up of stocks. Canadian situation in 1985 will be one of rebuilding exports but not necessary stocks. Quotas should remain reasonably large.

Canadian export wheat prices are expected to remain stable at current low levels as a result of the reduced Canadian-US dollar exchange rate and the support that the US loan rate will continue to give in 1985-86.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dwayne Couldwell
427-5386

June 17, 1985

For immediate release

Respirators needed when spraying grasshopper insecticides

In addition to goggles and overalls, it's important that farmers wear respirators when spraying grasshopper insecticides to avoid becoming ill from exposure to fumes and mist. This advice comes from Moe Hussain, pesticide specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

There are many kinds of respirators with different color-coded filters on the market. However, Dr. Hussain points out that only a pesticide filter will work and farmers should specifically ask for this type. Avoid dust masks and respirators with felt filters; they do not reduce pesticide exposure.

There are two types of respirators. One type has two filters and the other has a single filter. Both are equally efficient in reducing exposure. However, the respirator with the double filter lasts must longer. When the filters are used up, they can be screwed off and replaced. The single filter respirator is disposable and should be thrown away when it's used up.

"Goggles should be used especially during tank mixing and overalls should be worn at all times when working with insecticides," reminds Dr. Hussain.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. Moe Hussain
427-4438

For immediate release

Provincial coordinator at Olds appointed

Gordon McNaughton has been appointed provincial coordinator of the Financial Management Initiatives Program at the farm business management branch at Olds. The appointment which was effective June 3, 1985 was announced by J. Wilson Loree, branch head.

Mr. McNaughton was raised on a livestock farm in the Didsbury area. He holds a B.Sc. in agriculture majoring in animal science from the University of Alberta and an M.Sc. in agricultural extension from the University of British Columbia.

As coordinator of the new program, Mr. McNaughton will provide financial management training and consulting to Alberta farm families. He will supervise the management training curriculum and related computer program, and conduct training courses for program consultants and staff.

A district agriculturist with Alberta Agriculture for 28 years, Mr. McNaughton has worked at Lacombe, Athabasca, Berwyn, Peace River and at Red Deer where he's been for the past 10 years. He has considerable experience in counselling and teaching financial management programs and is a member of the Alberta Institute of Agrologists.

- 30 -

Contact:

Gordon McNaughton
556-4236

June 17, 1985

For immediate release

ADC financial analyst appointed

Duane Watrin has been appointed financial analyst at ADC's Camrose office. The appointment which was effective May 21 was announced by Peter McNeil, ADC manager of agribusiness lending.

Mr. Watrin was born and raised on a mixed farm near High River, Alberta. He has worked as an accountant with Deloitte, Haskins and Sells and as a loans officer and an advisory services officer with the Federal Business Development Bank. Most recently, Mr. Watrin was part owner of a paving business and sole proprietor of a mixed farm operation.

In his new position, Mr. Watrin will process agribusiness loan applications and administer a portfolio of existing accounts.

- 30 -

Contact:

Duane Watrin
679-1364

AGRI-NEWS

AL.1.691

June 24, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Banks interested in agriculture 1

Fusilade not registered for use on canola or soybeans 3

Diagnostic services in Alberta 4

Points to consider when buying water treatment equipment 10

Maximizing benefits of ear tags on cattle 12

Guide to Crop Protection in Alberta supplement now available 14

Rinse herbicide containers 15

Weather modification research program open house — July 4 17

District home economists in training appointed 19

Breton Plots field day to be held July 5 20

Agricultural Service Board tour 21

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 24, 1985

For immediate release

Banks interested in agriculture

If your bank manager or credit officer seems more informed about agriculture lately it's likely that he or she was among the 75 agricultural lenders that attended the sixth annual Agricultural Workshop for Lenders held June 2 to 7 at Olds College.

This five-day workshop is co-sponsored by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, Alberta Bank Agrologists and the Continuing Education department at Olds College. It's designed to familiarize agricultural lenders with current agricultural production, marketing and profit maximizing techniques used in Alberta's major agricultural enterprises. Participants studied a variety of topics including production, marketing and financing techniques for cow-calf, feeder cattle, dairy, swine, crops, sheep, bees and poultry operations. Other presentations included irrigation technology and finance, farmers' credit concerns and resources available from Alberta Agriculture. Several Olds area farm tours provided the lenders with a first-hand look at farm operations.

The workshop is open to agricultural lenders across the province. This year, lenders from Peace River to Lethbridge attended. Most major banks participate in the workshop on an annual basis. All costs of the course are funded through paid registrations.

Development and coordination of the workshop is provided by Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch. Sponsorship is provided by Alberta Cattle Commission, Alberta Hog Producers Marketing Board, Alberta Egg and Fowl Marketing Board, Alberta Wheat Pool, and United Grain Growers. Alberta Agriculture and these producer groups are interested in developing better communication and understanding between banks and farmers.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Banks interested in agriculture (cont'd)

Further information on the objectives of the Agricultural Workshop for Lenders and the manual used in the course are available from Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch, Box 2000, Olds, Alberta, T0M 1P0.

- 30 -

Contact:

Douglas E. Barlund
556-4245

June 24, 1985

For immediate release

Fusilade not registered for use on canola or soybeans

Alberta Agriculture has received notification from Agriculture Canada that the registration of the herbicide Fusilade has been extended for 1985 to cover flax, potatoes, sugarbeets and sunflowers. Contrary to widespread belief, the herbicide is not registered for use on canola or soybeans.

Farmers should be aware that any use of Fusilade on canola or soybeans or advertising, displaying or distributing it for the purpose of use on these crops may be a violation of The Pest Control Products Act.

By using this chemical in an unregistered manner, Alberta farmers run the risk of having a canola crop which no one wants. Oilseed crushers are concerned about residues of Fluazifop, the active ingredient in Fusilade, which may be present in the crops at harvest. Studies indicate that these residues are present in the meal and may be present in oil after processing.

"We can't encourage the use of any product that's not registered," says Walter Yarish, head of weed control with Alberta Agriculture, "and we don't want to jeopardize the province's canola industry by using an illegal chemical."

- 30 -

Contact:

Walter Yarish
427-4438

For immediate release

Diagnostic services in Alberta

With the onset of the 1985 growing season, commercial growers, extension specialists and others who deal with growing plants will once again encounter disease, pest and weed problems. The accurate diagnosis of such problems is important in order that correct control procedures be implemented and crop losses minimized, says Marilyn Dykstra, diagnostician with Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks.

Professional assistance in plant diagnosis is available from four regional crop laboratories in Alberta. These are located at Fairview, Vegreville, Olds and Brooks. Each laboratory routinely handles hundreds of specimens each year, receiving the majority of these between May and September.

Here are procedures and factors to be considered when submitting plant disease, pest or unidentified plant samples to a diagnostic laboratory.

1. Submission of specimens

Disease, pest or unidentified plant specimens may be submitted directly to an Alberta Agriculture regional crop laboratory, to the Alberta Environmental Centre, or to the nearest Alberta Agriculture district office. All Alberta Agriculture offices are linked by a courier service which ensures that specimens reach a diagnostic lab within two days, thus minimizing the duration and degree of deterioration while the specimen is in transit. Perishable specimens and specimens needing urgent diagnosis should be sent via a district office, as this is usually the quickest and most direct channel. Late week mailing should be avoided as specimens may deteriorate if stored over a weekend. Following are the addresses of the four diagnostic laboratories in Alberta:

Plant Sciences
Alberta Environmental Centre
Vegreville, Alberta
TOB 4LO
Telephone: 632-6761
R.I.T.E.: 149-1286

Regional Crop Laboratory
Alberta Agriculture
Box 7777
Fairview, Alberta, TOH 1LO
Telephone: 835-2291

- (cont'd) -

Diagnostic services in Alberta (cont'd)

Regional Crop Laboratory
Alberta Agriculture
Box 10
Olds, Alberta, TOM 1PO
Telephone: 556-4282
R.I.T.E.: 154-1282

Regional Crop Laboratory
Alberta Horticultural Research Center
Bag Service 200
Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO
Telephone: 362-3391
R.I.T.E.: 166-1101

2. Selecting a suitable specimen

Disease specimens – A representative sample is essential for an accurate diagnosis. Always choose plants which show a range of symptoms, or send several plants or plant parts which show various stages of trouble. One leaf, in most cases, is not enough for an accurate diagnosis. Submitting entire plants is important, as often above ground symptoms are caused by problems affecting the roots. Dig rather than pull up plants to preserve the root system intact.

Tree branch specimens should show the range of symptoms and several years of growth. A completely dead branch or small twig rarely provides meaningful information for disease diagnosis.

Turf specimens should be at least 20 cm square and 8 cm thick. The sample should be dug from the edge of the affected area so that healthy and diseased areas of the sod are included.

Insect and pest problems – As it is often difficult to identify a pest problem from a single specimen and specimens may be damaged in transit, it's important that several specimens be submitted. Plant samples showing injury also aid in diagnosis and should be included if possible. Live specimens are desirable as such insects must often be reared through to the adult stage before an accurate identification can be made.

- (cont'd) -

Diagnostic services in Alberta (cont'd)

Unidentified plants – Specimens submitted for identification should include as much of the plant as possible. Root systems, floral structures, foliage and seed are all important in plant identification.

3. Diagnostic forms

All specimens submitted should be accompanied by the proper diagnostic form. These forms are available at all Alberta Agriculture district offices. Diagnostic forms are color coded for type of specimen: pink for diseases, yellow for insects and other pests, and green for unidentified plants, and come with three carbon copies. The fourth copy is retained by the submitter for his/her records, and the remaining two and original should be submitted to the diagnostic lab along with the specimen. The second (white) copy is returned to the client and the third (blue) copy is returned to the submitter with the completed diagnosis and recommendations. The original (pink, yellow or green) is retained for the diagnostic lab's files. Diagnostic forms should be filled out as completely as possible. If there is insufficient space on the form, additional information should be provided on separate pages.

4. Relevant information

The likelihood of a quick and accurate diagnosis is enhanced by adequate background information. Following is a description of information which should accompany a specimen submitted for diagnosis.

Name, complete address, postal code and phone numbers – These should be included for both the person submitting the specimen and the originator. Phone numbers are very important if further information is required, or to discuss a diagnosis. Alberta Agriculture personnel should always include their RITE telephone number. Postal codes enhance efficient delivery of mail. Having to stop to look up phone numbers or postal codes is time consuming and will delay diagnoses.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Diagnostic services in Alberta (cont'd)

Identity of the affected plant — Knowing the species and variety of the affected plant is very important since there is great variation in susceptibility to plant diseases between cultivars. Knowing what plant is affected allows for the use of host/disease indices. Such indices also indicate where a disease or pest has been reported and this information may reinforce the accuracy of a diagnosis.

Symptoms and signs of trouble — Examine the entire plant. Are the roots, leaves, stems, flowers or fruit affected? Is the entire plant diseased? More specifically, note whether the symptoms are systemic as in the case of root rots, wilts and certain physiological disorders associated with nutrition. Are the symptoms localized in the form of leaf spots or are they in irregular patches? Do they occur on the leaf margins or along the veins, or are they scattered at random over the leaf surface? How does the diseased plant differ from the healthy plant in color, size and degree of maturity? Are there indications of the cause of the trouble such as fungal fruiting bodies, mycelium, sclerotia, molds, mildew and rust, or perhaps indications of insect injury such as chewed leaves, tunnels in stems or roots, droppings, or eggs? Are the terminal shoots, blossoms or fruits wilted, discolored or rotted?

Disease distribution — Carefully examine the diseased area. Note how the affected plants are distributed over the affected area, whether a greenhouse bench or large field. Are they uniformly distributed or localized in certain spots? Is only one type of plant affected or are many unrelated plants involved? Are all of the plants in a field or planting affected? How did the disease develop in the affected area? Did it appear overnight?

Crop history and method of handling — Is this the first time for this crop or has the same crop been planted in this location previously? What about fertilization practices, spray programs, irrigation programs or unusual weather conditions? Have herbicides or soil sterilants (fumigants) been used to eradicate weeds or plant pathogens? Have insecticides or

Diagnostic services in Alberta (cont'd)

fungicides, other than those normally recommended, been applied? Has there been smog or other toxic gases in the area? What was the source of planting stock or seed?

5. Packaging diagnostic specimens

a) Refrigerate or collect specimens immediately prior to sending.

b) Wrap specimens individually and label accurately. **Do not wrap specimens in plastic**, as this will encourage rotting and mold growth.

c) Include all information available.

d) Cushion specimens by using padded envelopes or packing them in sturdy boxes or mailing tubes to avoid damage in transit. Address the package accurately and mark "Perishable — Keep from Heat and Cold".

e) When submitting an entire plant, the roots and soil ball should be enclosed in a plastic bag and tied off from the rest of the plant. Moisture may be added to the rootball if the soil is dry. The entire plant should then be rolled in newspaper, and placed in a proper mailing container. Plant specimens submitted for identification may be pressed and dried prior to sending.

f) Miscellaneous plant parts should be laid out as flatly as possible between layers of newspaper, and then packaged as described in "e" above. Moisture should never be added to the blotter paper, newspaper or other paper wrapping materials as this encourages rotting in transit.

g) Rotting fruits and vegetables are the most difficult specimens to handle and may arrive in poor condition despite all one can do. For best results, avoid airtight containers and moisture since both encourage more rapid rotting. Wrap the specimen in dry paper towelling or newspaper and cushion in a sturdy box or mailing tube. Never send a completely rotted specimen as that degree of deterioration usually makes diagnosis impossible. Send specimens showing only early stages of decay.

h) Tree branches may be cut into several short lengths to facilitate packing.

i) The best diagnosis of household plant problems will occur when an entire plant is sacrificed. However, as an absolute minimum, along with leaf and stem portions, submit 5 mL of the roots and about 250 mL (1 cup) of soil. Wrap leaf and stem samples separately, as previously described, and place soil and roots in a plastic bag.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Diagnostic services in Alberta (cont'd)

j) Seedlings — Provide about a dozen seedlings in a litre of soil. Make sure soil is sufficiently moist to support the plants. Enclose a few plants, free of soil, separately.

k) Insects and other pests — should never be sent "loose" in a mailing tube, vial or envelope. Such specimens usually arrive pulverized. There is also the concern that live indoor pests, sent in such a way, may escape and become established in the lab.

Live pests should be sent in a vial or jar, packed in a non-crushable container, with sufficient host material for the pests to feed on and "hang on to" during transit. Larvae and other soft-bodied pests should be placed in a vial and preserved in alcohol. Dry, brittle specimens should be cushioned within vials with cotton or tissues.

- 30 -

Contact:

Marilyn Dykstra
362-3391

June 24, 1985

For immediate release

Points to consider when buying water treatment equipment

Every year a large number of rural residents buy water treatment equipment without determining what is actually wrong with their water.

Water quality is affected by many factors that interact causing complex problems. It's important to isolate the problem before selecting a particular treatment says Alberta Agriculture water engineer, Archie Archampong.

An iron filter is required to remove iron staining in water but iron bacteria must be controlled first. If the bacteria are not held in check they can grow in the filter media and render it ineffective. Iron bacteria can cause staining in water that inherently has a low iron content. Therefore, by simply controlling the bacteria, the problem may be solved without having to purchase an iron filter. If the bacteria are held in check and the iron staining persists **then** an iron filter is required.

Although the major purpose of water softeners is to remove water hardness, it can also remove up to three milligrams per litre of iron. If your water is hard and stains a rusty color, your local equipment dealer will probably recommend a water softener and an iron filter. But, if the actual iron content has not been determined first, you may be running the risk of buying an iron filter that's not needed. "It's possible that a water softener is all you need to solve the two problems," says Mr. Archampong.

It's a good idea to measure the iron content after using just a water softener. If the content is reduced to three milligrams per litre or less then you don't need an iron filter.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Points to consider when buying water treatment equipment (cont'd)

If you have a water quality problem it's important to contact a qualified water treatment technician who will investigate the problem thoroughly. After carefully considering all the possible factors related to the problem, the technician will give a treatment recommendation.

For further information on buying water treatment equipment or on water treatment problems, contact your local district agriculturist or regional engineering technologist.

- 30 -

Contact:

Archie Archampong
427-2181

June 24, 1985

For immediate release

Maximizing benefits of ear tags on cattle

The pesticidal ear tag is a major innovation in protecting cattle from some of the pest flies encountered on summer pastures. Since ear tags dramatically reduce numbers of flies visible on animals, cattlemen are inclined to economize on the cost of tags by treating only part of their herds. Some cattlemen assume that when they see reduced numbers of flies on animals that treating only one out of two or three animals in commercial beef herds, or only the cow or its calf in each cow-calf unit in breeding herds, is sufficient to protect productivity. But, such economy in tagging procedures can be at the expense of lost productivity of animals, says Dr. W.O. Haufe animal parasitologist at the Lethbridge Research Station.

A study of responses of cattle to blood-feeding flies at the Lethbridge Research Station shows infested animals on pasture gain less primarily because of altered patterns of behavior stimulated by fly attack. Treatments result in an increase in gains consistent with the quantity and quality of grass available for daily intake. Only during heavy pest outbreaks are losses directly determined by numbers of flies.

Pesticides in ear tags control flies by means of the normal grooming behavior of animals. The tags continuously release very small amounts of pesticide for regular distribution on the body hair. In time the cumulative toxic residues deposited on the hair gradually eliminate flies from animals and eventually from pastures. Fly controls contribute to maximum daily weight gains in animals when flies are sufficiently reduced in number from the grazing area to permit normal grazing and optimum intake of grass.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Maximizing benefits of ear tags on cattle (cont'd)

The presence of very small numbers of flies in a pasture is sufficient to interfere with grazing behavior and optimum intake of grass. So, it's essential to tag every animal including nursing calves in breeding herds, says Dr. Haufe.

Tags must be applied at the beginning of the grazing season before the first flies appear. This permits low deposits of pesticide to accumulate on the hair and to prevent establishment of blood-feeding species. Only by establishment of a fly-free grazing environment are blood-feeding flies prevented from influencing grazing patterns of animals.

Timely tagging of all animals in herds will maximize benefits and monetary return from pasture in increased productivity of cattle. It will improve utilization of the general surplus of forage at the time when seasonal abundance of flies is increasing on pastures and range.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. W.O. Haufe
327-4561

For immediate release

Guide to Crop Protection in Alberta supplement now available

A tabloid supplement to Alberta Agriculture's popular "Blue Book" *(Guide to Crop Protection in Alberta - Part 1 - Chemical, Agdex 606-1)* of chemical recommendations has recently been distributed to all district agriculturists and municipal agricultural fieldmen.

The supplement contains timely information and tips on herbicides, addressing some of the most common questions asked by farmers, says Arnold Stearman, of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch.

The supplement contains all new herbicide registrations received up until April 30, 1985.

Crops which may be affected the year following the use of a herbicide and registered tank mixes and the effect of rainfall on herbicide efficency are two of the topics covered in the supplement.

"Every year it seems some farmers are obliged to salvage hail or weather damaged crops for hay and pasture," says Mr. Stearman. A chart has been prepared which indicates any restrictions on such use of herbicide treated crops.

The tabloid lists some new fungicide registrations as well as information on the grasshopper monitoring program now underway. A reference map for relating the weekly grasshopper news releases to the areas being sampled throughout the season is included.

Other items discussed include the effect of additives in a herbicide mix, container rinsing, hints on sprayer clean out and winter storage of herbicides.

The supplement (Agdex 606-3) is available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices and the Publications Office, 7000 - 113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Arnold Stearman
427-5326

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 24, 1985

For immediate release

Rinse herbicide containers

Herbicide container rinsing is a sensible step every farmer should take when using herbicides this spray season. "Not only is it economical but it's also a good safety precaution," says Arnold Stearman, weed control specialist with Alberta Agriculture.

It has been estimated that up to three per cent of a liquid herbicide remains in a container after it appears to be empty. Based on a 20 litre container of Avadex, this means that approximately half a litre of herbicide remains in the container. Using the suggested retail price of $8 per litre, this represents $4 worth of chemical. By using the triple rinse technique or a pressure rinse, this chemical can be reclaimed in a matter of minutes. Assuming that five minutes is used up, this still gives a return of $48 per hour, says Mr. Stearman.

Since most herbicide containers are usually discarded in a pile until the end of the spray season when they are trucked to a collection depot, truly empty containers are much safer for on-farm storage, road movement and in a collection depot.

Here is the triple rinse procedure:

1. Empty the container into the spray tank and drain for 20 to 30 seconds.
2. Fill the container one quarter full with rinse water.
3. Slosh the liquid around and empty into the spray tank.
4. Repeat at least twice more.
5. Break or puncture glass, plastic or metal containers.
6. Paper bags or drums should be rinsed at least once before disposal.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Rinse herbicide containers (cont'd)

All pressure rinsers are designed to rinse any container which can be inverted over the opening of a spray tank. They are constructed to be thrust through the bottom of a can or plastic container, and installed on a source of water under pressure; either a pressure system or a transfer pump. Water is directed toward all sides of the container and all remaining herbicide is removed.

- 30 -

Contact:

Arnold Stearman
427-5326

June 24, 1985

For immediate release

Weather modification research program open house -- July 4

Agriculture is your business . . . weather permitting. Hail damage to crops, for instance, costs Alberta farmers $100 million each year. Drought costs much more.

At the Alberta Research Council, weather modification research is the largest program of the Atmospheric Sciences department. It's dedicated to research in suppressing hail, and increasing rain and snow, with cloud seeding technology. Thanks to primary funding from Alberta Agriculture the program is now in its fifth year. It uses advanced technology, computerization and liaison with major national and international weather modification centers.

The Alberta Research Council is holding an open house on July 4, at the Red Deer Industrial Airport, where you can learn more about the program and the most recent developments in weather modification, including hail suppression, and increase of rain and snow.

"The open house will be held between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m., and Research Council staff will be on hand to take you on a tour of our operations and discuss the work we've been doing in more detail," says Peter Roaf, public relations coordinator with the Alberta Research Council. Light refreshments will be provided.

At the open house, in addition to the specially equipped research aircraft designed to take measurements inside storm clouds, will be an armor-plated plane, the T-28, which will be used this summer for flying inside the most severe regions of hailstorms.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Weather modification research program open house – July 4 (cont'd)

During 1985, scientists will be visiting from India, the United States and Canada to support and study our weather research and operations. They will represent such organizations as the World Meteorological Organization, The National Center for Atmospheric Research and The Canadian Atmospheric Environment Service.

- 30 -

Contact:

Peter Roaf
438-1666

June 24, 1985

For immediate release

District home economists in training appointed

Three Alberta Agriculture district home economists began training on June 10. They will be working with experienced district home economists in an on-the-job training program designed to prepare them for assuming responsibility in their own district, says Shirley Myers, head of Alberta Agriculture's home economics branch.

Rosemary Zak will be assisting DHE Brenda White at the Strathmore district office. Ms. Zak was born and raised on a dairy farm near Delburne, Alberta. She holds a B.Sc. in home economics majoring in foods and nutrition from the University of Alberta. From 1981-1983, Ms. Zak worked as a nutritionist in Papua, New Guinea where she established nutrition rehabilitation units and taught preventative health and nutrition.

Dorene Trenerry will be working out of the Barrhead district office. She graduated from the University of Alberta this year with a B.Sc., in home economics majoring in clothing and textiles. Ms. Trenerry was born and raised on a mixed farm at Provost, Alberta and worked as a summer assistant with the DHE at Spirit River in 1984.

Tracy Hamilton has been appointed to the district office at Spirit River. A native of Lethbridge, Alberta, Ms. Hamilton holds a B.Sc. in home economics from the University of Alberta where she majored in clothing and textiles.

Among the program areas in which they will be working are financial management, nutrition at school and 4-H.

- 30 -

Contact:

Rosemary Zak – 934-3355
Dorene Trenerry – 674-8213
Tracy Hamilton – 864-3597

June 24, 1985

For immediate release

Breton Plots field day to be held July 5

The 55th annual Breton Plots field day, a joint effort of Alberta Agriculture and University of Alberta, will be held on Friday, July 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Breton Plots, owned and operated by the University of Alberta, are located about 110 kilometres southwest of Edmonton on Gray Luvisolic soils. These soils are difficult to manage because of poor physical condition, acidity and low nutrient status. Research work was initiated in 1929 and some of the plots have been in operation since 1930. Several new rotations and some short-term experiments are also underway.

The theme of this year's program is legumes in rotations and for green manuring. The morning agenda includes a discussion of legume nitrogen fixation by Perry Olsen from Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge. Jim Robertson from the U of A will talk about the effects of forage crops at the Breton Plots, and Robert Winchell of Alberta Agriculture's Barrhead office will discuss the economics of using legumes.

A plot tour will be held after lunch as well as a soil crops clinic where specialists will be on hand to answer specific questions about soils, crops and weed management.

For further information contact Jim Robertson, 432-4942, the department of soil science, 432-3242 or Doug Walkey, 542-5368.

- 30 -

Contact:

Jim Robertson – 432-3242

Doug Walkey – 542-5368

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

June 24, 1985

For immediate release

Agricultural Service Board tour

The County of Beaver Agricultural Service Board tour is scheduled for Tuesday, July 16. The tour will begin at the county workshop at the east end of Ryley.

Highlights of the tour will include on-farm demonstrations of injecting anhydrous ammonia into hayland and a rest rotational grazing system. Various plots and chemicals will be looked at including a plot using a new liquid phosphorus fertilizer (Feast).

To pre-register or for further information call the Alberta Agriculture district office at Ryley, 663-3555.

- 30 -

Contact:

Jerome Machue
663-3555

AGRI-NEWS

AL.1.691

July 1, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Strategy for Increased Market Share Project approved 1

New Biotechnology Chair for the University of Alberta 3

Canola meal in swine rations – the price is right 6

Dairy situation and outlook 8

4-H announces CNE scholarship winner 9

Tips for homeowners using pesticides 11

Alberta mission to USSR successful 13

Chaff and straw handling and ammoniation 15

Alberta 4-H'ers travel across Canada 17

Alberta 4-H'ers attend Montana 4-H Congress 18

Alfalfa leaf cutting bee field day 19

Alberta Horticultural Research Center appoints greenhouse crops specialist 20

Correction 20

Coming Agricultural Events 21

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

July 1, 1985

For immediate release

Strategy for Increased Market Share Project approved

Alberta Agriculture Minister LeRoy Fjordbotten announced on June 20, 1985 that the province has approved $1.6 million in funding for a new processed food market expansion program, the Strategy for Increased Market Share (SIMS) Project.

The three-year project is designed to increase domestic sales of Alberta's value-added food and beverage products, through an industry-wide marketing and advertising campaign. The campaign will begin in September 1985, and is to be conducted by the Alberta Food Processors' Association (AFPA).

Formal consumer research and sales tracking studies will also be conducted under SIMS, to monitor and measure the project's effectiveness.

A complementary program, the Rural Agricultural Products Promotion (RAPP) program, has also been approved and will be implemented during the year by AFPA, in co-operation with Alberta Agriculture's district home economists. The program's aim is to increase awareness and sales of Alberta processed food products among rural retailers and consumers. RAPP will receive approximately $500,000 in provincial funding in the course of its three-year mandate.

The aggressive marketing approach of these two programs is the key to fulfilling the enormous potential of our fledgling processing industry, said Mr. Fjordbotten.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Strategy for Increased Market Share Project Approved (cont'd)

By the end of its three-year term, the SIMS campaign is expected to have expanded the domestic market share of Alberta food products, yielding major sales increases. At that time, the food processing industry will assume financial responsibility for the project.

The RAPP program is also expected to produce significant increases in sales of value-added products in the rural community.

- 30 -

Contact:

Bryan Walton
427-4241

July 1, 1985

For immediate release

New Biotechnology Chair for the University of Alberta

Alberta Agriculture Deputy Minister Ben McEwen has announced the department is instituting major, new long-term support for biotechnological research in Alberta.

The support from Alberta Agriculture takes the form of a grant for $50,000 per year for five years, a commitment of $250,000 in total. The grant will be used to establish a Plant Biotechnology Research Chair in Plant Science in the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Alberta.

Mr. McEwen also commended Canadian Pacific Ltd. (CP) for its announcement last fall that it would donate $250,000 to the University of Alberta over the next five years through its Western Canada Agricultural Research Program. "It is a contribution we are pleased to match dollar for dollar," he added.

"For some time, individuals and groups have indicated a strong need for more biotechnology research in Canada," said Mr. McEwen. "I am pleased Alberta Agriculture is in a position to take action to support this particular need."

"If we are to retain our competitive edge in food production, then we must encourage biotechnological research wherever possible," said the deputy minister. "In fact, considering the increasing competition we face on domestic and international markets, it's almost a necessity."

Biotechnology research in agriculture is currently involved in several areas. In many instances, basic research techniques are still being developed or refined.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

New Biotechnology Chair for the University of Alberta (cont'd)

However, many microbial technologies already hold great promise. For instance, through 'vectoring', one method of genetic engineering, desired traits can be incorporated into plant cells by using a virus or bacterium which 'infects' the cell with specific genetic material. Using techniques like this, scientists will someday be able to produce hardier plants which offer higher yields and better nutrition.

Gene splicing is another promising technique of genetic engineering which allows scientists to create a hybrid, a whole new plant, having the desirable traits of two other different species or varieties. The "pomato", a cross between a tomato and a potato, is a well-known example.

As well, through genetic engineering, farmers may someday be able to solve pesky problems with very specific remedies. For example, farmers may soon be able to selectively destroy only unwanted insects, by 'infecting' plant cells with viruses and bacteria harmful only to a particular insect. Because of the diversity of the pest problem in Canada, the broad effort required in this type of research could result in Canada becoming a world leader in insect control.

Among current research efforts, increasing the nitrogen fixation capability of some plants is well into the development stage. If this research were successful, the improved plants would allow farmers to cut back their use of costly artificial nitrogen fertilizers. In addition, environmental hazards posed by these petro-chemical based fertilizers would be significantly reduced.

- (cont'd) -

New Biotechnology Chair for the University of Alberta (cont'd)

Other areas of biotechnological research include increasing milk and meat production from livestock, and developing biologically produced flavor and nutrition enhancers at lower cost than traditional additives. Work on improved fermentation techniques may someday allow more efficient processing of bread yeasts and wines. Even the conversion of wastes to high protein food, using bacteria as waste-converters, is under study.

The potential of agriculturally related biotechnology holds vast benefits for all Albertans. "It is a rapidly growing and highly competitive area," said Mr. McEwen. "There is also a definite need for long-term funding in this research area, both from government and from private industry. In fact, I believe joint support from both the private and public sectors, such as that being provided by Alberta Agriculture and Canadian Pacific Ltd., is required if we are to continue to develop a strong research community in this province."

In addition to the University of Alberta, three other Canadian universities will each receive $250,000 over five years from CP's Western Canada Agricultural Research Program. The four universities are also collaborating in supporting a Canadian Pacific touring lecturer in each year of the program. The inaugural lecturer will be the world renowned molecular biologist, Dr. D.P.S. Verma, presently the Professor of Biology at Montreal's McGill University.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. Jim Mahone
427-1956

July 1, 1985

For immediate release

Canola meal in swine rations — the price is right

Recently canola meal has been selling in Alberta at prices below that of barley. This relatively low cost protein supplement is available to livestock producers in the prairie provinces thanks to the large scale production of canola and local crushing facilities. "Canola meal is virtually free of the glucosinolate problems encountered with the old rapeseed meal," says Sam Jaikaran, swine nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture," and, its palatability is much better."

Although the protein content of canola meal varies slightly depending upon the cultivar from which it was produced, commercial canola meal generally contains 35 to 37 per cent protein on an as-fed basis with an average digestibility for pigs of 75 to 80 per cent. Its amino acid makeup is similar to that of soymeal, however, canola meal protein is slightly lower in lysine but higher in methionine and cystine. Therefore the two protein supplements tend to complement each other when used in the same ration, explains Mr. Jaikaran.

Here are some recommendations for including canola meal in swine diets: grower feed (25 to 50 kilogram pigs), 7 to 10 per cent, finisher feed (50 to 110 kilogram pigs), up to 15 per cent, and sow feed (gestation and lactation), 15 per cent. According to Mr. Jaikaran, canola meal may be used as the only supplemental protein source in rations for finishing pigs and sows without adverse effects.

Compared with soymeal based rations, canola meal rations show few, if any, disadvantages. At higher inclusion levels (more than 10 per cent) in grower rations, a slight decrease in feed intake has been observed but this has not been the case with finisher pigs or sows. When canola meal was fed as the only protein supplement over the entire growing and finishing periods, small decreases in daily gain and feed conversion (about 2 per cent) were

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

observed. These, however, are generally offset because canola fed carcasses grade one or two points higher and feed cost per pig marketed is lower.

The decision to use canola meal should be based mostly on price; availability is not usually a problem. The price at which canola meal can be economically used in pig rations is based on the price of other commonly used protein ingredients, such as soymeal. For use in swine rations the price of canola meal should also take into account protein content and protein digestibility. For example, canola at 36 per cent protein and 78 per cent digestibility works out to be worth 70.9 per cent of the 44 per cent soymeal with 90 per cent digestibility; and 64.3 per cent of the 47.5 per cent soymeal with 92 per cent digestibility.

- 30 -

Contact:

Sam Jaikaran
436-9150

July 1, 1985

For immediate release

Dairy situation and outlook

According to Alberta Agriculture's dairy and poultry analyst, David Hope, Alberta milk production is expected to be well over quota at the end of July. If this happens a significant portion of quota levies will not be returned to producers but will be used to pay for disposal of surplus milk.

Normally, over 29 per cent of the annual MSQ (market share quota) is delivered in the final quarter of the dairy year. This hear, however, only 22.1 per cent of the annual quota was left to fill at the beginning of May, says Mr. Hope.

Although some provinces will be under quota, Canada's total MSQ milk production is expected to exceed the annual quota of 169.7 million kilograms.

Alberta fluid milk sales, which fell consistently over the past three years, have now bottomed out. Sales in April were up sharply from those of one year ago.

Poor butter sales continue to reduce the demand for industrial milk despite high speciality cheese sales.

Continued low world prices for skim milk powder causing high surplus disposal costs could result in further levy increases. No MSQ quota increase is expected and, in fact, producers could see a further MSQ cut.

The May federal budget made no specific mention of the federal dairy program. Although a reduction of $50 million was made to Agriculture Canada's budget, it's not known yet if the dairy program will be affected by this cut.

- 30 -

Contact:

David Hope
427-5382

July 1, 1985

For immediate release

4-H announces CNE scholarship winner

Lyanne Klutz winner of the 1985 Canadian National Exhibition Scholarship for Alberta.

Lyanne Klutz of Daysland has won the 1985 Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) scholarship for Alberta. Lyanne is one of 10 delegates from across Canada who will be presented with the CNE award at a ceremony at the CNE in Toronto, later in August, says Elizabeth Webster, provincial 4-H personal development specialist.

The $1,000 CNE scholarship is awarded annually to one student from each province who has completed at least one year in a degree program in agriculture, home economics, agricultural engineering, or veterinary science. Applicants are considered on the basis of 4-H involvement, community participation, leadership skills, and school marks.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

4-H announces CNE scholarship winner (cont'd)

Lyanne will be entering her third year in the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry. She was a member of the Daysland 4-H clothing club for four years and the market steer and heifer clubs for seven years. Lyanne was also a junior leader for two years.

Lyanne's extensive 4-H background, her contribution to her community, and her academic performance outranked other applicants. She has attended most district, regional, and provincial programs where she has also contributed as a volunteer staff member. Lyanne continues to train younger people in public speaking and leadership skills and is presently a key member in the Edmonton 4-H alumni. "Lyanne is indeed a worthy recipient of the CNE scholarship," says Ms. Webster.

The CNE scholarship is administered by the Canadian 4-H council and is sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and the rural organizations and services branch. 4-H scholarship winners are chosen by a selection committee.

- 30 -

Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

July 1, 1985

For immediate release

Tips for homeowners using pesticides

To avoid mishaps homeowners using pesticides in the garden this summer should take certain precautions. Moe Hussain, Alberta Agriculture's pesticide specialist has these tips:

- First know what the pest problem is and buy the correct pesticide which will kill the pest in that particular crop. If the pest is not listed on the label, the chemical may not control it.
- Follow the directions for use. Pay close attention to mixing instructions and pre-harvest, intervals. To avoid pesticide residues from ending up in your vegetables at harvest do not use more chemicals than recommended.
- Mix the pesticide outdoors, standing upwind. Do not spray on a windy day. Always wear long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, and rubber gloves when spraying. Do not use cloth or leather gloves. Avoid inhaling the pesticide when spraying.
- When spraying do not allow the pesticide to drift onto neighbors' ornamentals or vegetables. To protect bees, do not spray trees and shrubs in bloom.
- Wash the sprayer thoroughly after using weed killers and before spraying insecticides since traces of the weed killer can damage sensitive plants.
- When you are finished spraying pesticides, wash your hands and face thoroughly with soap and water. Clothes used for spraying should be washed in water and detergent separate from other clothing. Do not allow children or pets to play in the area for at least 24 hours.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Tips for homeowners using pesticides (cont'd)

- Store all your pesticides in a locked cupboard out of the reach of children. Do not store pesticides under the kitchen sink or in your garage if young children are around. Pesticides should be stored in their original containers. Children can accidentally drink a pesticide if it's stored in pop bottles.
- Dispose of all empty containers by wrapping them up in a paper bag and placing them in the outside garbage.
- If you accidentally spill pesticides on your concrete or floor, throw some soil or sawdust on top. Allow the pesticide to be absorbed into the material then scoop it into a plastic bag and dispose of it in the outside garbage. Wash the spot with hot soapy water.

- 30 -

Contact:

Moe Hussain
427-4438

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

July 1, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta mission to USSR successful

A highly successful agricultural market development mission to the Soviet Union, led by Alberta Agriculture Minister LeRoy Fjordbotten, took place June 11 to 21, 1985.

The purpose of the mission was to pursue the development of a total concept meat and dairy program in cooperation with mutually agreed upon republics of the USSR.

The delegation was composed of four Alberta businessmen representing the cereal, forage, livestock and transportation industries; one MLA; Alberta Agriculture's assistant deputy minister of marketing; the Chairman of the Alberta Grain Commission and two Alberta Agriculture officials.

According to Mr. Fjordbotten, the delegation's meetings with Mr. V.K. Mesyats, minister of agriculture for the Soviet Union, were extremely positive regarding the participation of Alberta's private sector in the development of beef, dairy and swine production, processing and distribution programs in the Soviet Union.

Soviet officials are interested in duplicating the success Canada's red meat, dairy, cereal and forage industries have had in overcoming the disadvantages posed by geographic and climatic conditions. These disadvantages include vast distances which separate production sites from major markets and the extremes in weather the farming industry must face.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta mission to USSR successful (cont'd)

"The key to the success of Alberta's system is the integrated approach to all aspects of production, processing and marketing," said Mr. Fjordbotten. By using this approach, and using our technology, the Soviets hope to alleviate some of their food production problems, he added.

The delegation visited impressive on-site production and processing facilities in the Novosibirsk area of Siberia and in the Kustanai area of Kazakhstan.

- 30 -

Contact:

John Latham
427-4241

July 1, 1985

For immediate release

Chaff and straw handling and ammoniation

Providing sufficient winter forage for livestock has been a problem in much of northeastern Alberta since 1980. Each year more producers have been turning to straw as an alternative when hay supplies are insufficient.

Straw is a low quality forage which can be improved with chemical treatment such as anhydrous ammonia. Although not an inexpensive treatment, ammoniation is effective in providing more nutrients from straw than animals would get otherwise, says Walter Dietz, Alberta Agriculture's regional livestock production specialist at Vermilion. "Because of current costs it should be considered as an emergency alternative," he adds.

A more cost efficient option for winter feed is the collection of chaff at grain harvesting time. Chaff is collected directly from the combine, blown into trucks and hauled to storage, or blown into chaff wagons and dumped in piles in the field to be hauled later.

If left in the field, chaff represents a source of unwanted seeds. Producers have reported that removing chaff from the field reduces or eliminates weed spraying in the new growing crop. Also, they've found that the crop is more productive if the "chaff strip" is not in the field. The chaff, containing grain and weed seeds, can also be ammoniated to substantially improve the quality of the product as a livestock feed.

On July 16, Alberta Agriculture and the Vermilion Agricultural Society will be holding a seminar and demonstration on chaff collection and handling and the ammoniation of chaff and straw. It will be held at the Vermilion fair grounds and stadium. The indoor seminar will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the outdoor demonstration will follow at 1:00 p.m. There is no charge.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Chaff and straw handling and ammoniation (cont'd)

Jack Kernan, from the Saskatchewan Research Council, will discuss the ammoniation of straw and chaff and Leo Redekop will talk about chaff collection. There will also be slide and film presentations. The proper procedure for ammoniation of baled straw and loose chaff will be demonstrated showing the required equipment and the details that should be considered for maximum benefits, says Mr. Dietz. Chaff handling equipment, representing the latest technology, will be in operation and on display.

- 30 -

Contact:

Walter Dietz
853-2811

For immediate release

Alberta 4-H'ers travel across Canada

Five Alberta 4-H members will be participating in the 4-H Inter-Provincial Exchange. This Canada wide program is sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada. This summer, 50 4-H'ers from across Canada will travel from their home to another province from July 4 to 17.

Alberta's five 4-H youth are: Marina Lieverse of Beaverlodge travelling to British Columbia, Allan Clemens of Mossleigh travelling to Saskatchewan, Jennifer Wilson of Erskine travelling to Nova Scotia, Lisa Keirle of Drumheller travelling to Quebec, Grace Brown of Byemoor travelling to Newfoundland.

On Wednesday, July 3 the Alberta 4-H'ers will attend a send off banquet in Calgary hosted by the Royal Bank of Canada. The following morning the delegates will depart for their host province. The interprovincial exchange gives the Alberta delegates a chance to visit a different province, live with a host family, and meet 4-H'ers from other parts of Canada, says 4-H summer exchange coordinator, Delin Sheehan at Alberta Agriculture's Airdrie office.

During the same time period, families in Alberta will be hosting 4-H delegates from other provinces. Raleigh Kett and family of Wainwright hosting Sonyia Price of British Columbia; Walter Bak and family of Grande Prairie hosting Jeff Torgrimson of Saskatchewan; Shelley Moncrieff and family of Carvel hosting Kimberley Ricketts of Newfoundland; Perry Olechuwski and family of Medicine Hat hosting Karen Crawford of Nova Scotia; Heather Tabor and family of Delia hosting Sonia Livernoche of Quebec.

Through this exchange, it's hoped that Canadian 4-H members will develop an understanding and appreciation for other Canadians and for their 4-H program, says Ms. Sheehan.

- 30 -

Contact:

Delin Sheehan
948-5101

July 1, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta 4-H'ers attend Montana 4-H Congress

Four Alberta 4-H youths will be travelling to Bozeman, Montana for the 1985 Montana State Congress. Keith Lemay of Grande Prairie, Philip Nichols of Castor, Marla Peterson of Warner, Tanis Watrin of Edmonton, and their chaperone Milo Barfuss of Lethbridge, will be departing on Friday, July 5, says Delin Sheehan, 4-H summer exchange coordinator at Airdrie.

On the way to the congress the delegation will be viewing agriculture sights of both Montana and Alberta. The group will be reliving the past at Virginia City, exploring the earth's depths at the Lewis and Clark caverns and viewing Ford's Antique Car Collection at Deerlodge.

The group will spend July 8 to 12 at the congress and will have the opportunity to meet our southern border 4-H friends. While at the congress, the group will participate in live-stock judging seminars, photography, handicrafts, agricultural economics, fashion shows and many other educational and self-interest seminars.

Alberta Agriculture has sponsored this trip to Montana for 4-H members since 1947. The four members participating this year were chosen at the Provincial 4-H Selections held in May, 1985 at Olds College. "They were awarded the trip based on their past 4-H involvement and leadership qualities," Ms. Sheehan.

The Alberta 4-H'ers will have the opportunity to see how 4-H operates in the United States before their return home on Sunday, July 14.

- 30 -

Contact:

Delin Sheehan
948-5101

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

July 1, 1985

For immediate release

Alfalfa leaf cutting bee field day

A field day on alfalfa leaf cutting bees will be held on July 16, 1985 at 10:00 a.m. at the Ron Zellweger farm. The farm is located nine miles north of St. Paul on Highway 881, two miles east and one-half mile south.

John Lieverse and Dr. Daphne Fairy of the Beaverlodge Research Station will discuss the management of alfalfa stands for seed production including weed control, feeding rates and varieties.

Speakers will also be discussing insect pests of alfalfa and fertilizing alfalfa stands. Research personnel will talk about the latest research at the Beaverlodge Research Station.

Those attending the field day will be able to observe fertilizer trials on alfalfa and displays of leaf cutting bee management.

The field day is sponsored by the St. Paul and Lac La Biche Agricultural Service Boards and Alberta Agriculture. For more information contact: Kirsty Ross, district agriculturist at St. Paul, 645-6301; or Harvey Yoder, district agriculturist at Lac La Biche, 623-5218.

- 30 -

Contact:

Kirsty Ross – 645-6301

Harvey Yoder – 623-5218

July 1, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Horticultural Research Center appoints greenhouse crops specialist

Tom Krahn, director of the Alberta Horticultural Research Center (AHRC) at Brooks, has announced the appointment of Gordon Grant as greenhouse crops specialist. The appointment was effective May 6, 1985.

A native of Ostenfeld, Manitoba, Mr. Grant received his B.Sc. in horticultural science from the University of Manitoba in 1981. Mr. Grant continued his education at the University of Manitoba and received his M.Sc. in 1983, specializing in computer science.

As the greenhouse crops specialist at AHRC, Mr. Grant will be responsible for applied research in greenhouse vegetable and floricultural crops management and physiology. He will also provide advice to greenhouse growers in southern Alberta including diagnosis and recommendations on nutritional disorders.

- 30 -

Contact:

Gordon Grant
362-3391

Correction: In Agri-News June 24, 1985, the article entitled *Points to consider when buying water treatment equipment* should have read:

It's a good idea to measure the iron content before buying a water softener. If the content is less than three milligrams per litre then you don't need an iron filter.

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Coming Agricultural Events

1985

Weather Modification Research Program Open House
Red Deer Industrial Airport
Red Deer, Alberta . . . . . July 4
Peter Roaf – 438-1666

Canadian Seed Growers' Association Annual Meeting
Victoria, B.C . . . . . July 4 -6

Breton Plots Field Day
Breton, Alberta . . . . . July 5
Jim Robertson – 432-4942

Western Agricultural Economics Association Annual Meeting
(International Meeting – U.S. and Canada)
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . July 7 - 9
Dr. H. Furtan, Saskatoon

International Soil Tillage Research Organization Conference
Guelph, Ontario . . . . . July 8 - 12
Dr. T.B. Daynard, Guelph, Ontario, N1G 2W1

Snow Management for Agriculture
International Symposium
Swift Current, Saskatchewan. . . . . July 9 - 11
Dr. Zentnor, Research Centre, Swift Current

Annual Agricultural Service Board Field Tour
High Prairie/Falher/Valleyview . . . . . July 10 - 12
Ferrin Leavitt – 427-2171

American Civil Engineering Association
Irrigation & Drainage Conference
San Antonio, Texas. . . . . July 18 - 22
Akos Pungor – 329-5140

5th World Angus Forum
Convention Centre
Edmonton, Alberta. . . . . July 18 - 27
Leroy Emerson – 471-7210

Edmonton's Klondike Days Exposition
Edmonton Northlands
Box 1480
Edmonton, Alberta. . . . . July 18 - 27
Leroy Emerson –471-7210

Alberta Women's Week
Olds College
Olds, Alberta. . . . . July 22 - 25
Ellen Fromback – 384-3737

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch
Phone: (403) 427-2121

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Western Canadian Sheep and Wool Show and Sale
Vanscoy, Saskatchewan. . . . . August 2 3
Jim Koal – 664-5200

Soil Conservation Society of America
(40th Annual Conference)
Marriot's Pavilion Hotel
St. Louis, Missouri. . . . . August 4 - 7
A.D. Latornell, 10670 Younge St., Richmond Hill, Ontario

Alberta Horticultural Research Center Annual Field Day
Brooks, Alberta. . . . . August 30
Brendan Casement – 362-3391

First Annual Canadian Pacific Symposium:
Applications of Biotechnology to Western Canadian Agriculture and Forestry
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta. . . . . September 26 - 27
Dr. J. Hoddinott – 432-3290

Irrigation & Soil Management (International Course)
Volcani Centre of Agriculture Research Organization
Tel Aviv, Israel . . . . . October 13 - December 13
Dr. Kurt M. Schallinger, P.O. Box 6, Bet Dagan 50-200, Israel

National Outstanding Young Farmer Awards
Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Grounds
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . October 16 - 20
Larry Revitt – 262-1677

Northlands Farmfair
Edmonton Northlands
Box 1480
Edmonton, Alberta. . . . . November 7 - 16
Leroy Emerson – 471-7210

Canadian Honey Council
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan . . . . . November 20 - 22
John Gruszka – 922-9790

Canadian Western Agribition and Mexabition
Exhibition Grounds
Regina, Saskatchewan. . . . . November 22-29
Dianna Hebert – (306) 565-0565

Alberta Wheat Pool Annual Meeting
Palliser Hotel
Calgary, Alberta . . . . . November 25 - December 6
Al Beattie – 290-4910

Alberta Sheep Symposium
Chateau Lake Louise
Lake Louise, Alberta. . . . . November 28 - 30
John Knapp – 948-5101

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Coming Agricultural Events (cont'd)

Christian Farmers' Federation of Alberta Annual Meeting
Leduc, Alberta ..... November 29
Ted Koopmans – 428-6981

National Farmers Union National Convention
Convention Inn South
Edmonton, Alberta ..... December 2 - 6

1986

Canadian Charolais Association Annual Meeting and Convention
Saskatoon Inn
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan ..... February 6 - 8
Ed Pelletier – (306) 467-2286

REDA (Rural Education Development Association) Conference
Edmonton, Alberta ..... February 10 - 11
Cliff Wulff – 427-4241

Canada Agfest '86
Featuring 1986 Canadian Plowing Championships and 33rd World Plowing Match
Olds College
Olds, Alberta ..... May 29 - June 3
Bob McFadyen – 556-7569

World Sheep Congress
Stampede Park
Calgary, Alberta ..... July 5 - 15

World Charolais Federation Annual Meeting
Marlborough Inn
Calgary, Alberta ..... July 9 - 12
Joyce Stewart – (403) 276-9242

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AL.1.61

AGRI-NEWS

JUL 2 1985

July 8, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Alberta Livestock Industry Initiatives 1
Dairy Processing Technology Chair announced 5
1985 Sclerotinia Stem Rot Check List 7
When to water the grass. 11
Seek medical attention if insecticide exposure symptoms are experienced 13
"Cue into culture" with 4-H Expressions 14
Honey situation and outlook. 16
Record acreage seeded in 1985 18
Regional irrigationist appointed at Airdrie 19
District agriculturist-in-training appointed at Sangudo 20
ADC loans officer appointed at Cardston 21
Correction. 21

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

July 8, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Livestock Industry Initiatives

Premier Peter Lougheed and Alberta Agriculture Minister LeRoy Fjordbotten jointly announced on July 3, 1985 that the Province is implementing a comprehensive set of initiatives to assist the competitive position of Alberta's livestock sector. These initiatives have been developed in close cooperation with the government's agricultural caucus committee.

The estimated cost of the initiatives is $118.6 million over the next 21 months, with approximately $56.9 million targeted for 1985-86 and $61.7 million for 1986-87.

In making the announcement Premier Lougheed stated, "Under the circumstances now facing Alberta red meat producers, I believe there is an urgent need for the Province to show full support for our livestock sector."

"We are therefore pleased to announce that we will implement several major initiatives designed to offset or eliminate specific disadvantages placing abnormal stress on the operations of Alberta producers."

The major initiatives include:

I. The Alberta Feed Grain Market Adjustment Program:

This program is designed to neutralize the serious disadvantage imposed on Alberta livestock producers by the current method used to pay the Crow benefit.

To counteract the distortion in domestic feed grain pricing caused by paying the benefit directly to the railways, the feed grain market adjustment program will pay grain producers an offset equivalent to the Crow benefit on net grain sales used in domestic livestock production. Estimated cost of the program is $51.5 million in 1985-86 and $61.5 million in 1986-87.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta Livestock Industry Initiatives (cont'd)

The program will become effective September 1, 1985. Over the next few months, Alberta Agriculture officials will consult informally with the agriculture industry to refine the program's administrative details. An annual review of the program will also be conducted before July 31 of each year.

II. **The Alberta Pork Producers Debt Retirement Grant:**

The second major initiative is to provide a grant to relieve Alberta pork producers of their obligation to retire the debt directly related to the purchase of Fletchers Fine Foods Ltd. in 1981.

The grant, estimated at $5.1 million, to be paid to the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board on behalf of producers, would be used to eliminate the balance owing at June 30, 1985 on the loan for the Fletchers' purchase. On receipt of the grant, the board will be required to eliminate the $2 per hog levy currently being paid by hog producers to retire the Fletchers' loan.

III. **A Review of the Alberta Hog Selling System:**

A review of the hog selling system currently used by the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board is to be undertaken immediately, to ensure that the system promotes long-term viability of hog production and processing in the province.

The Minister of Agriculture also directed the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council to develop a new formula-pricing and allocation system for hog selling within 60 days.

- (cont'd)

Alberta Livestock Industry Initiatives (cont'd)

In designing the system, the marketing council is to consider a number of principles previously agreed to by Alberta meat packers and the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board. These principles include: Alberta's hog price to be a blend of prices from relevant markets, packers to be subject to penalties if they purchase less than the minimum number of hogs stated in their contracts, and establishing an appropriate method for bidding on residual hogs, which are the hogs remaining after the initial allocation is completed under the formula-pricing process.

The minister also indicated he considers the process of developing a new selling system to be an excellent opportunity for the Alberta Pork Producers Marketing Board and Alberta's meat processors to work together to devise a system acceptable to both.

IV. Market Development/Import Replacement Assistance:

This $100,000 program will provide funds to producer organizations to assist them in their efforts to promote domestic consumption of Canadian beef and pork products over similar imported products, and in protecting domestic markets against unfair competition. This assistance is available immediately.

V. Possible Alberta Red Meat Stabilization:

Upon announcing the livestock industry initiatives, LeRoy Fjordbotten stated, "Bill C-25, the enabling legislation for a national red meat stablilization program, just passed by the House of Commons, appears to pose significant problems for Alberta producers and for the Government of Alberta."

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta Livestock Industry Initiatives (cont'd)

Mr. Fjordbotten said, "The federal government previously assured our government and producers that it would pass legislation to establish a stabilization plan that was market-neutral and that would eliminate subsidies in provinces which elected to participate in the plan."

"Unfortunately, it has passed enabling legislation which would specifically permit a plan which could run counter to several of the most important principles for which we and our producers have long fought."

"Regrettably, the federal legislation is now in place," said Mr. Fjordbotten, "and I am prepared to discuss with other governments, provincial and federal, ways to establish a stabilization program which respects the principles we have long held for a stabilization program — including that it be voluntary, market neutral, and prohibit top-loading by any government."

"However" added the Minister, "we are also in the process of developing our own Alberta provincial red meat stabilization plan which, if implemented, would be voluntary and market neutral."

- 30 -

Contact:

Hon. LeRoy Fjordbotten
Minister of Agriculture
(403) 427-2137

H.B. McEwen
Deputy Minister
Alberta Agriculture
(403) 427-2145

July 8, 1985

For immediate release

Dairy Processing Technology Chair announced

Alberta Agriculture Deputy Minister Ben McEwen announced July 8, 1985 that a research chair in dairy processing technology will be established in the University of Alberta's Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry. Funding for the position, which is to be filled before the end of the current fiscal year, will be jointly provided by the Province, the University of Alberta, and Alberta's dairy industry.

The Province's contribution to the chair will be made through Alberta Agriculture. A total of $34,000 will be provided by the department in 1985-86, with an additional $50,000 per year to be awarded over the next four years. The University of Alberta will contribute $11,000 annually during the same five-year period, through the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry.

The Alberta Dairymen's Association has also agreed to provide funding for the chair in the amount of $40,000 per year for five years, beginning in 1985-86. The money is to be raised through a $0.50/hectolitre checkoff on milk processed in the province. Funding from the Alberta Dairymen's Association will be renewed annually.

In making the announcement, Mr. McEwen stated, ''The high cost of dairy processing research has often discouraged development in the industry, particularly since returns on such research are seldom immediate. The establishment of the dairy research chair will allow a number of projects to be carried out which will have a direct impact on Alberta's dairy industry. It should also assist processors in improving and expanding their product lines, which should have a positive effect on exports.''

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch
Phone: (403) 427-2121

Dairy Processing Technology Chair announced (cont'd)

The individual chosen to occupy the research chair will be made director of the Alberta Dairymen's Research Unit (ADARU), which is part of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry. In this capacity, the individual will identify and assess problems in the provincial dairy industry, and will supervise research personnel at the unit.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. Jim Mahone
427-1956

July 8, 1985

For immediate release

1985 Sclerotinia Stem Rot Check List

The following check list, taken from the Canola Growers Manual, is based on Alberta Agriculture's research data and other research data obtained from sclerotinia control projects which have been carried out over the past few years.

The check list is intended to provide growers with a means of deciding whether or not it could be economical to spray their crops with a fungicide to control this disease, but the check list should be used with discretion, says Dr. Ieuan Evans, supervisor of plant pathology and Phil Thomas, supervisor of oilseed crops, Alberta Agriculture. Weather conditions following an evaluation, for example, could either increase or decrease the level of disease that is predicted.

The time to fill out the checklist and assess the crop is shortly after first flower. First flower occurs when 75 per cent of the plants in the field have three open flowers on the main stem. The answers to the questions are assigned points with the final tally indicating whether protection is economical.

1.	Have you had a good previous crop at flowering and poor yields at harvest, even though growing conditions were favorable?	Yes	20
		No	0
2.	Have you seen sclerotinia stem rot in your crop in previous years?		
		Yes	20
		No	10
3.	Have you heard of stem rot problems in your area in the past 2 to 3 years?		
		Yes	10
		No	5
4.	Have you seen sclerotia in your harvested seed in the past 2 to 3 years?		
		Yes	20
		No	10
5.	In previous years have your canola crops lodged?	Heavily	20
		Moderately . . .	10
		Lightly	0

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

1985 Sclerotinia Stem Rot Check List (cont'd)

6.	Do you see large swaths at harvest but get low yields?	Yes	10
		No	0
7.	If you sprayed a stem rot fungicide in previous years, what were the results?	Better crop . . .	20
		No difference . . .	0
		Total	____

If you scored well over 60 in the first part then you probably have had stem rot in previous canola crops although you may not have realized it.

8.	When you walk through your crop at the beginning of flowering, are your boots and pantlegs wet when you come out?	Yes.	20
		No	10
9.	Have you had wet weather in the immediate area within 2 to 3 weeks prior to flowering that allowed the soil to remain moist for extended periods?	Yes	20
		No	10
10.	Do you know how and when to recognize apothecia? If "no", go to question 12. Were apothecia found in the field, around the field, or in any neighboring cereal or canola fields where canola was grown in the previous 1 to 3 years?	Yes	20
		No	10
11.	Do you feel it will be dry throughout the flowering stage of the crop?	Highly likely . . .	0
		Moderately likely .	10
		Not likely.	20

If you had a high score in the first part and more than 50 for the last four questions, you should consider the need for a fungicide application to protect your field against sclerotinia stem rot. Before you decide to spray sclerotinia, answer the questions in the next section, which are important criteria for disease development in the crop.

12.	How is your stand of canola?	Excellent	20
		Good	10
		Fair	5
		Poor	0

- (cont'd) -

1985 Sclerotinia Stem Rot Check List (cont'd)

13.	When you walk through your crop, how is the canopy?	Light . . . . . 0 Moderate . . . . . 10 Very dense 20
14.	What is the yield potential of the stand?	10-20 bu/ac . . . . 0 20-30 bu/ac . . . . 10 Greater than 30 bu/ac 20
15.	How typical are your yields?	Greater than 30 bu/ac . . . . . 0 20-30 bu/ac . . . . 20 Less than 20 bu/ac 5
		Total ___

If you have scored 50 or higher in the last four questions, along with high scores from the first and second sections, it will probably be worthwhile to protect your crop against sclerotinia stem rot. If you scored 20 or lower, it would most likely not be worth spending the money to control stem rot in that field.

Bloom Stage Identification and Aerial Application

If you have decided to spray for stem rot control, you must then decide when to spray. Sample several plants over the field and assess the number of open flowers. One way to check for bloom stage is to find the main stem, rip off the secondary branches, and count only the open flowers on the main stem. Generally, it takes a crop two to four days, depending on the weather, to move from first flower to 10 per cent bloom; one to two days from 10 to 20 per cent bloom; and one to two days from 20 to 30 per cent bloom. The number of opened flowers will indicate the flowering stage.

Identification of Flowering Stages of Canola

Flowering Stage %	Number of Open Flowers on the Main Stem	
	B. *napus*	B. *campestris*
10	at least 10	6-7
20	14-16	10-12
30	at least 20	14-16

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

1985 Sclerotinia Stem Rot Check List (cont'd)

Argentine-type canola (Westar, Altex) generally gives a much greater response to a fungicide application than the Polish-types (Tobin, Candle) although disease levels may be reduced significantly in Polish canola, yield response (yield increase) can vary from no change to up to 8 bushels per acre in a 30 to 40 bushel per acre crop.

As of 1985 two fungicides are registered for sclerotinia control in canola for both aerial and ground application. They are Benlate (DuPont) and Rovral (May and Baker) at 16 litres per acre (aerial) and 40 litres per acre (ground) water volume. Ronilan, another fungicide from BASF, effective against sclerotinia, has been given a temporary registration for demonstration purposes only.

Canola growers who are not sure how to identify sclerotinia and/or apothecia should check the Canola Growers Manual or contact their local district agriculturist.

- 30 -

Contact:

Ieuan Evans
427-5350

Phil Thomas
782-4641 (Lacombe)

July 8, 1985

For immediate release

When to water the grass

The best way to know when to irrigate turf for efficient water use is by observing the changes in the grass. The best time to water is just prior to visible wilting, but it must be done before permanent wilting to avoid serious injury to the turf. This advice comes from Betty Vladicka, extension horticulturist at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.

The water use rate is the total amount of water required for turfgrass growth plus the amount lost by transpiration and evaporation from soil and plant surfaces. The water use rate of most turfgrasses is 2.5 to 7.5 mm (0.1 to 0.3 inches) per day.

Several factors influence the water use rate of turf:

- evapotranspiration rate
- length of growing season
- growth rate
- turfgrass species or cultivar
- intensity of traffic
- soil type
- rainfall
- available soil moisture

Conditions causing rapid shoot growth increase the water use rate. For example, the rate increases as the cutting height is raised. Cutting with a dull, improperly adjusted mower mutilates the leaf tissue and increases the water use rate. Fertilization also increases the rate.

As the soil begins to dry out, the turf will start to show signs of water stress. The first visible symptom is a color change to a gray to blue green or slate color.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

When to water the grass (cont'd)

"Foot printing" is another sign that wilting is imminent. This technique involves walking across the turf and observing the rate at which the leaves return to their original upright position. Slow or partial recovery indicates that leaf turgidity is lacking and visible wilt symptoms will soon appear.

The visible drooping, rolling or folding of turfgrass leaves indicates wilt. The lengthwise folding or rolling of the blades is caused by the loss of water pressure within the plant. Wilting is best seen on the older leaves because the youngest are not fully expanded and will appear wilted. Wilting may occur in small localized spots or extend over a large area. Traffic over wilted turfgrass should be avoided as this will cause injury to the aboveground tissues.

Watering should be done at the first visible symptoms of wilt. It's necessary that sufficient amounts of water be applied. The root zone area 15 to 20 cm (6 to 8 inches) deep should be wet. Watering the soil to a considerable depth encourages deep rooting and results in a more vigorous turf.

- 30 -

Contact:

Betty Vladicka
973-3351

For immediate release

Seek medical attention if insecticide exposure symptoms are experienced

With this year's severe outbreak of several insect pests in Alberta crops, farmers will be using a number of insecticides.

"Some of these chemicals are fairly hazardous and if proper precautions are not taken, many farmers could experience symptoms caused by exposure to them," says Moe Hussain, pesticide toxicologist with Alberta Agriculture. "Farmers should seek medical attention immediately if this happens."

Exposure may occur from spills and splashes when a farmer is pouring the concentrated pesticide powder or liquid from the container into the sprayer.

Exposure could also occur when spraying crops. The spray drift may get onto the skin or may be inhaled. Dr. Hussain points out that the tractor cab does not provide any protection from exposure to drift.

If a respirator, goggles, gloves and coveralls are not worn, a farmer may be exposed to a sufficient amount of the chemical during one day of spraying to experience symptoms.

Early signs of exposure to insecticides include headache, dizziness and slight nausea. Later symptoms are blurring of vision, stomach cramps, diarrhea, vomiting and constricted pupils of the eye. In most cases, symptoms do not progress beyond this point.

These symptoms are usually brought on because of inhibition of the cholinesterase enzyme in the body.

Most Alberta hospitals have a poison manual in the emergency department for treating insecticide poisoning.

- 30 -

Contact:

Moe Hussain
427-4438

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

July 8, 1985

For immediate release

"Cue into culture" with 4-H Expressions

Each of us has a different interpretation of culture based on our family background and individual experiences. But our cultural heritage is something we all can share and enjoy.

The 1985 4-H Expressions program, scheduled for August 7 through 9 at Olds College in Olds, offers over 200 4-H members and leaders the opportunity to experience a wide variety of cultural traditions first hand. This informative, fun-filled program has been developed around the theme "Cue into Culture". It's expected that by highlighting the varied cultural and ethnic backgrounds of today's youth, 4-H Expressions participants will better understand and appreciate the uniqueness of their Alberta heritage and the role it plays in their lives, both now and in the future, says Sandy Behnke, provincial 4-H home economics specialist.

Planned recreation activities encompass everything from ethnic dance demonstrations and craft displays to Mexican pinata making, native Indian totem poles and oriental kite building. The select-a-session workshops cover a wide variety of topics including ethnic foods and spices, after school snack ideas, outdoor survival skills, crafts from the past, the latest in computer technology and an introduction to the new 4-H bird project.

Once again 4-H Expressions offers more than just recreation and learning. There's teamwork and fellowship to be found in the ever popular 4-H fashion show, cowboy and indian dance and the all new Hawaiian barbeque for those who yearn for a taste of the South Pacific.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

"Cue into culture" with 4-H Expressions (cont'd)

And, much more awaits participating 4-H members from across Alberta who attend 4-H Expressions. The focus of the two day event is to provide the opportunity to learn and share ideas which will make each 4-H member's club work more meaningful. Acting as ambassadors from their clubs, participants will share the information learned with fellow club members when they return home.

For further information, contact Sandy Behnke, 4-H branch, Edmonton (427-2541) or Karen Goad, district home economist, Innisfail (227-6565).

- 30 -

Contact:

Sandy Behnke – 427-2541

Karen Goad – 227-6565

July 8, 1985

For immediate release

Honey situation and outlook

Canadian honey production reached a new high of 43.6 million kilograms in 1984, says Alberta Agriculture's special commodities analyst, Fred Boyce. Favorable weather conditions led to record output in the prairie provinces, Ontario and Quebec, and near record totals in the other provinces.

Alberta honey production reached a new high of 12.5 million kilograms. Colony numbers were estimated at 180,000 up nearly five per cent from 1983, despite a slight reduction in the number of beekeepers.

Increased efforts by beekeepers, dealers and packers have succeeded in moving the bumper crop into commercial channels with little change expected in carryover stocks. Exports are well above previous years' totals and increased promotional campaigns are expected to improve domestic consumption.

Honey prices have declined particularly in the export market place. Fierce competition in the United States and European markets from Mexico, Argentina, Australia and China has pushed prices lower. Average returns for bulk honey are expected to average about $1 per kilogram for Alberta beekeepers. Export prices have become a little stronger during the past month, but large supplies in other exporting countries will hamper further price improvement. Little change is expected in prices during the next few months, says Mr. Boyce.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Honey situation and outlook (cont'd)

In Alberta, little change is expected in the number of beekeepers or colonies during 1985. Currently, bees are in good condition and hive populations are increasing. In areas with grasshopper and cutworm infestations where spraying is going on, bee losses could occur if close cooperation between beekeepers and farmers does not exist.

- 30 -

Contact:

Fred Boyce
427-5383

July 8, 1985

For immediate release

Record acreage seeded in 1985

Alberta producers have seeded a record acreage to the major crops in 1985, reports Rodney Dlugos of Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch. Latest Statistics Canada estimates, released on June 28, indicate that 18.5 million acres (7.5 million hectares) were seeded to wheat, oats, barley, canola, flax and rye this spring. Seeded acreage is up 3 per cent from 1984, the previous record acreage year. All crops except canola and flaxseed have increased acreages over 1984.

Summerfallow acreage is down 7 per cent from last year and is now at its lowest level since 1935, 4.4 million acres (1.8 million hectares).

Alberta's record seeded acreage could translate into a record production year as well. "In 1981, our all time highest production year to date, production of the six major crops totalled 15.6 million tonnes," says Mr. Dlugos. If Alberta producers can obtain average yields in 1985 (based on the 1979-83 average), production will surpass the 1981 levels by almost 5 per cent.

- 30 -

Contact:

Rodney Dlugos
427-4011

July 8, 1985

For immediate release

Regional irrigationist appointed at Airdrie

Dennis Roll has been appointed regional irrigationist at Alberta Agriculture's Airdrie office. The appointment which was effective June 17, was announced by Mr. A.E. Pungor, irrigation branch head at Lethbridge.

Born in Calgary, Mr. Roll was raised on an irrigated farm at Hays in the Bow River irrigation district. He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1968 with a B.Sc. in agriculture specializing in soil science.

As the irrigation and conservation division's representative for regions two to six (Airdrie region and north), Mr. Roll will be assisting district agriculturists, regional specialists and farmers with irrigation, drainage and water management. He will also be responsible for identifying research needs and setting up on-farm demonstration projects.

Employed with Alberta Agriculture for some 12 years, Mr. Roll has worked as irrigation specialist at Brooks, regional irrigationist at Airdrie and most recently, soil and water management specialist at Edmonton. He has also worked with both Saskatchewan Agriculture and PFRA (Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration) in the areas of irrigation agronomy and extension at Outlook, Saskatchewan.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dennis Roll
948-5101

July 8, 1985

For immediate release

District agriculturist-in-training appointed at Sangudo

John Tackaberry, Alberta Agriculture's director for the northwest region, has announced the appointment of Gerald Laarhuis to the Sangudo district office. Mr. Laarhuis will be training with Lloyd Giebelhaus, senior district agriculturist, effective July 2, 1985.

Mr. Laarhuis is a graduate of Olds College and Montana State University. He was raised on a mixed farm in the Tofield area.

- 30 -

Contact:

Gerald Laarhuis
785-2266

July 8, 1985

For immediate release

ADC loans officer appointed at Cardston

Richard Meeks has been appointed ADC (Agricultural Development Corporation) loans officer at Cardston. Mr. Meeks will cover the Cardston, Pincher Creek and Warner areas, said Gordon Bruins, ADC regional manager at Lethbridge, when making the announcement.

A native of Raymond, Alberta, Mr. Meeks graduated from Montana State University in 1966 with a B.Sc. in agricultural education.

In addition to operating an irrigated and dryland ranch and farm for several years, Mr. Meeks designed and instructed a pre-employment agriculture course for natives of the Blood and Peigan reserves at Lethbridge Community College.

- 30 -

Contact:

Richard Meeks
653-4461

Correction: In Agri-News July 1, 1985, the article entitled *4-H announces CNE scholarship winner,* should have read:

The CNE scholarship is sponsored by the Canadian National Exhibition and administered by the Canadian 4-H council.

AGRI-NEWS

AUG - 1985

A2 1.5?1

July 15, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Alberta Farm Weather Line. 1

Quota transfers temporarily suspended 2

Federal sales tax exemptions for qualifying farm purchases 3

Budget results in sales tax changes for farmers 6

Home food preservation: match the method to the produce. 9

Protect your livestock from blue-green algae. 11

Month of June dry in southern Alberta. 13

Herbicide damage diagnostician appointed 14

ADC appoints new counselling coordinator. 15

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

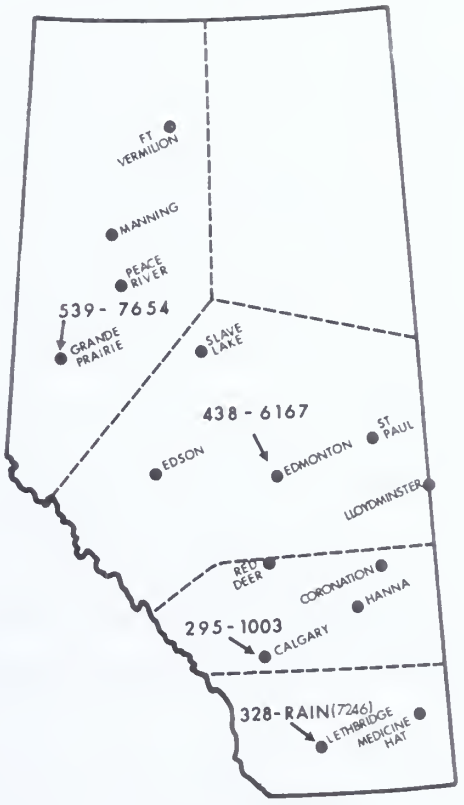
July 15, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Farm Weather Line

Alberta producers can now access a special agricultural weather forecast via telephone thanks to Alberta Agriculture and Atmospheric Environment Service (AES) who are providing this service as a pilot program this summer.

Four lines have been installed: Grande Prairie (539-7654) Edmonton (438-6167), Calgary (295-1003) and Lethbridge (328-RAIN). The lines are not toll-free and the user will be billed the normal long distance charge if the call is placed from outside the local calling area of the four centres. By placing the lines in each centre, we hope to minimize the charges by reducing the distance called," says Dena Lewis of Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch.



Ninety-second forecasts will be loaded onto tapes by the meteorologists at each location. Agricultural forecasts will be issued at 5:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Updates, using the regular public forecast will be issued at 4:00 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. The service will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, through to October. Each forecast will be specific for the region in which it is aired. "We hope this will be just the first step in providing up-to-date weather information to the farming community," says Ms. Lewis.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dena Lewis
422-4385

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

July 15, 1985

For immediate release

Quota transfers temporarily suspended

A temporary halt in the transferring of quota among producers has been announced by the Alberta Agricultural Products Marketing Council effective June 20, 1985. The four poultry marketing boards affected by the decision are the Alberta Egg and Fowl Marketing Board, Alberta Broiler Growers Marketing Board, Alberta Turkey Growers' Marketing Board and the Alberta Hatching Egg Marketing Board. The decision means these boards will not be able to approve any application for transfer of quota after June 20, 1985.

"The decision was made by the council in view of the number of producers actively trading facilities in anticipation of the implementation of a general quota transfer policy to be announced shortly by the council," said Mr. Harvey Buckley, chairman of the Agricultural Products Marketing Council. "Inadvertently, our efforts in achieving a quota transfer policy that will serve the best interests of supply management in Alberta are being somewhat undermined by producers who are selling their premises in order to escape some provisions of the new transfer policy", he said.

Council's quota transfer regulations are expected to be in place by early fall, at which time each board will be able to implement the new transfer policy.

- 30 -

Contact:

Terry Appleby
427-2164

For immediate release

Federal sales tax exemptions for qualifying farm purchases

Revenue Canada's district excise officers emphasize that federal sales tax exemptions are available for machinery, equipment and other items that are used directly in an agricultural production process.

Examples of some federal sales tax exempt items

Crops — tractors, field equipment, grain storage bins, cement for grain storage bin pads, grain dryers, tractor cabs, grain elevator legs, etc.

Beef — waterline plumbing and waterers for cattle, feeding systems such as self-feeders and feed-bunks, hay wagons, cattle squeezes, feed mills, fence gates, loading ramps, animal drugs and drug equipment, etc.

Dairy — milk and water pipeline, bulk milk coolers, feeding systems, silos, certain manure-handling equipment, milk machines, animal drugs and drug equipment, etc.

Hogs — pens, feeding systems, farrowing crates, animal drugs and drug equipment, etc.

Market Gardening — waterlines and heat-pumps for greenhouses, irrigation equipment, garden tractors, gardening tools, etc.

Material, or other equipment used for repair or construction of any of the above items, could also qualify for a federal sales tax rebate. Such items could include: electrical wire, cable, pipes, welding equipment, lumber, etc.

Examples of some non-exempt items

Items that do not qualify for a rebate are any enclosures — including enclosures of the agricultural process itself. Examples of items that would not be tax exempt are: barns, greenhouses, machinery sheds, quonsets, etc. Other items are: heating equipment for the above enclosures, fences, corrals, personal use items, etc.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Federal sales tax exemptions for qualifying farm purchases (cont'd)

Initial federal sales tax classification at purchase time

If the farm equipment is going to be used directly in some agricultural process, it would qualify for an **unconditional sales tax exemption.** For example, agricultural machinery such as field tractors with 40 PTO hp are used primarily in the field for crop production. The selling price of all items that qualify under this unconditional sales tax exemption automatically reflect the federal sales tax exemption.

Multi-purpose items, such as welding equipment, garden tractors, and small engines, must be used directly in an agricultural process or contribute to the process. These items would qualify under a **conditional sales tax exemption.** To obtain this exemption, an **end user certificate** must be filled out at the dealer's store.

When materials such as electrical wire, cable, pipes, lumber and cement are purchased, federal sales tax is included in the selling price. The buyer will have to pay the federal sales tax and then apply for the refund. This procedure is outlined later in this article. A tax rebate for qualifying items could be economically significant -- roughly 3 per cent to 6 per cent of the purchase price.

Procedure to claim federal sales refund

To claim a refund on any eligible multi-purpose materials for which an end user certificate could not be used, a farmer must do the appropriate calculation on a Revenue Canada form N15. This form must then be sent to the nearest district excise office. A second method of claiming the federal sales tax rebate is to have the licensed wholesaler or licensed manufacturer indicate the actual federal sales tax paid. This tax is fully refundable.

Refund claims take an average of six weeks.

- (cont'd) -

Federal sales tax exemptions for qualifying farm purchases (cont'd)

For additional information, contact a local district excise officer at:

Dept. of National Revenue, Excise,
Box 2525
Stattion M
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3B7

Telephone: 231-5678

Dept. of National Revenue, Excise,
Suite 610
10055 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2Y2

Telephone: 420-3420

For immediate release

Budget results in sales tax changes for farmers

Finance Minister Wilson, in his May 24, 1985 budget, announced a series of federal sales tax increases. The following is a summary of agriculturally related items which will be affected. Some of these items will be eligible for a federal sales tax rebate depending on how the farmer uses the material.

The first number in brackets following each item is the pre-July, 1985 federal sales tax. The second number is the July 1, 1985 sales tax increase. The third number is the January 1, 1986 sales tax. This additional increase of one per cent will occur on all of the items listed below.

Animal health related supplies (0, 10%, 11%)

1. All veterinary supplies such as microscopes, needles and syringes, surgical instruments, etc.
2. drugs for animals such as penicillin, etc.

Energy conservation equipment (0, 6%, 7%)

1. heat pumps when designed for use in permanently installed heating systems for buildings,
2. heat recovery units and devices for extracting heat from exhaust or waste water for recovery of energy,
3. thermal insulation designed for pipes and ducts used in buildings and mechanical systems; wrapping materials designed exclusively for use with such insulation,
4. most thermal insulation material,
5. solar panels and tubes designed for collecting and converting solar energy into heat for use in solar heating systems.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch
Phone: (403) 427-2121

Budget results in sales tax changes for farmers (cont'd)

Construction material

On July 1, 1985, the 6 per cent sales tax on the cost of raw materials to the manufacturer was abolished **but** it was replaced by a 6 per cent sales tax on the manufacturer's selling price, effective July 1, 1985. This effectively created a net increase in sales tax. Items affected are:

1. 70 per cent of the sale price (and or duty paid value in the case of imports) of mobile buildings and modular home units
2. asphalt paving materials
3. ready-mix concrete
4. concrete and cinder blocks, including precast concrete steps
5. prefabricated structural steel for buildings
6. structural building sections for incorporation into buildings and structures, including precast bearing walls, precast foundations, roof trusses,
7. prefabricated buildings and other structures, including storage tanks, garages, greenhouses, buildings sold in knocked-down condition.

Two year deadline announced on excise and sales tax (non-fuel related) rebate applications – arising **after** May 23, 1985

Any tax refunds arising on and after May 24, 1985, **must** be applied for within two years of the last date of application. If an application is not made within this specified time limit, then eligibility for that particular time period is lost.

Four year deadline restated on excise and sales tax (non-fuel related) rebate applications – arising **before** May 24, 1985

Where the entitlement to a refund arose before May 24, 1985, then an application for the refund **must** be made **in writing** within four years after the date of purchase. Also, if an application is not made within this specified time limit, then eligibility for that particular time period is lost.

- (cont'd) -

Budget results in sales tax changes for farmers (cont'd)

For additional information, contact a local district excise officer at:

Dept. of National Revenue, Excise,
Box 2525
Station M
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3B7
Telephone: 231-5678

Department of National Revenue, Excise,
Suite 610
10055 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2Y2
Telephone: 420-3420

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

July 15, 1985

For immediate release

Home food preservation: match the method to the produce

The various food preservation methods are not equally suited to all fruits and vegetables, says Alberta Agriculture food specialist, Catherine Edge.

A case in point is zucchini which thrives in Alberta – much to the dismay of many first-time gardeners. "If desperation has ever driven you to can zucchini, you'll know that the heat treatment of canning turns zucchini into a mushy, olive-green mass," says Ms. Edge.

Starting with a list of your family's favorite fruits and vegetables, find out which preservation methods are most suited to them. This information will prove valuable whether you're planning your garden or setting out on a trip to the Farmers' Market.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Home food preservation: match the method to the produce (cont'd)

The chart below is a guide to matching the most suitable preservation method to the Alberta-grown fruit or vegetable.

ALBERTA-GROWN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES:	Freezing	Canning	Making Jams And Jellies	Pickling	Drying
Apples	●	●	●	●	●
Asparagus	●			●	
Beans: Green / Wax	●	●		●	●
Beets		●		●	
Broccoli	●			●	
Brussels Sprouts	●			●	
Cabbage				●	
Carrots	●	●		●	●
Cauliflower	●			●	
Celery				●	
Corn	●	●		●	●
Cucumber				●	
Onions	●			●	●
Peas	●	●		●	●
Peppers			●	●	●
Potatoes					●
Pumpkin	●		●		
Raspberries	●	●	●	●	●
Rhubarb	●		●	●	
Rudabaga	●				
Squash: Summer	●		●		
Squash: Winter	●				
Strawberries	●		●		
Tomatoes		●	●	●	●

- 30 -

Contact:

Catherine Edge
427-2412

July 15, 1985

For immediate release

Protect your livestock from blue-green algae

When the weather gets hot, dry and calm, blue-green algae multiply in sloughs, dugouts, ponds and lakes. The algae produce a heavy concentration of cells that color the water dark green to dark blue. In some rare cases, the water may even turn greenish brown to red. This heavy growth and concentration of algae is called waterbloom.

During waterbloom the algae produce poisons that can kill livestock and other animals, says Archie Archampong, water engineer with Alberta Agriculture. There are two kinds of blue-green algae poisons. One type (alkaloids) attacks the animal's nervous system and kills by suffocation. "Alkaloid poisons kill suddenly and instantly," says Mr. Archampong. The other type (polypeptides) attack internal organs, especially the liver.

Signs of blue-green algae poisoning are:

- instant and sudden death
- loss of appetite and weight loss
- spontaneous abortion of pregnant females
- rigid extension of legs and neck
- reddening, blistering and swelling of tissues
- intense itching - animals rub affected area causing injury and secondary bacterial infection

The most successful method in controlling algae and preventing livestock losses is by treating stock water with copper sulfate or bluestone. Mr. Archampong recommends an application rate of one pound for every 100,000 gallons of water treated. "Apply as a dilute spray or place in a cloth sack and pull over dugout surface until it's dissolved," he says. "Apply one treatment now and repeat it in mid-summer."

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Protect your livestock from blue-green algae (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture's publication, *Dugout Maintenance, Agdex 716 (B31),* provides further information on other common dugout water problems and their treatment. Contact your local district agriculturist or regional engineering technologist for further information and assistance.

- 30 -

Contact:

Archie Archampong
427-2181

July 15, 1985

For immediate release

Month of June dry in southern Alberta

Dry conditions are having serious consequences for farmers throughout southern Alberta, says Dr. B. Grace of the Agriculture Canada Research Station at Lethbridge. June is normally the wettest month of the year in southern Alberta with an average precipitation of 73.2 mm in Lethbridge. However, the research station recorded only 2.0 mm for June of this year, the lowest value on record for this month.

Many of the dryland crops are beginning to show signs of drought stress. Winter wheat is most adversely affected because of its more advanced stage of growth and, hence, greater depletion of soil moisture reserves. Spring-seeded crops appear to be less stressed but require rain for grain development as soil moisture reserves deteriorate.

The accumulated precipitation to date for the 1985 growing season is less than half of the long-term average for the Lethbridge area. Good soil moisture reserves in early spring and cooler-than-average temperatures have resulted in less severe conditions than would normally be expected under these circumstances. Localized showers in some areas during June have produced small pockets of near-normal soil moisture. However, estimates of soil moisture reserves for most of southern Alberta remain at less than 50 per cent of normal in the crop rooting zone.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. B. Grace
327-4561

July 15, 1985

For immediate release

Herbicide damage diagnostician appointed

Dr. Fayez Qureshi, head of the weed science group at the Alberta Environmental Centre in Vegreville, has announced the appointment of Don Lobay to the position of herbicide damage diagnostician.

Mr. Lobay, a native of Smoky Lake, Alberta, graduated from the University of Alberta in 1982 with a B.Sc. in agriculture. Through his employment as an assistant agricultural fieldman with the County of Smoky Lake, he gained practical experience in advisory/extension service in weed control and herbicide use. He also investigated chemical damage complaints.

As the diagnostician, Mr. Lobay will share with Dr. Paul Sharma the responsibilities of providing chemical damage diagnostic and advisory services to the farming community and Alberta government agencies. Alberta Agriculture and Alberta Environment field staff can contact Mr. Lobay for assistance in field investigations or for a speaking assignment on herbicides damage to target and non-target vegetation at 632-6761, extension 283.

- 30 -

Contact:

Don Lobay
632--6761 (Extension 283)
Vegreville

July 15, 1985

For immediate release

ADC appoints new counselling coordinator

Gaylerde R. Kasa has been appointed counselling coordinator at ADC's (Agricultural Development Corporation) head office in Camrose. The appointment which was effective June 1, 1985 was announced by Randy Niven, manager of field services.

Raised in the Meeting Creek area, Mr. Kasa attended the University of Alberta where he obtained a B.Sc. in agriculture majoring in animal science (1975) and an M.Sc. in agriculture majoring in plant science (1981).

Mr. Kasa worked with Alberta Agriculture for several years as a district agriculturist at Evansburg and Barrhead. From 1981 until his present appointment he worked for ADC at Barrhead as a loans officer.

In his new position, Mr. Kasa will be responsible for implementing the Enterprise Counselling Program which provides counselling to farmers who are experiencing financial difficulties.

- 30 -

Contact:

Gaylerde Kasa
679-1387

AGRI-NEWS

AL.1.691

July 22, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Federal fuel tax changes can be confusing for farmers. 1

Custom herbicide application fees in 1985 5

Fertilizer Field Day. 7

Do-it-yourself drill kit may not produce promised water well 8

Leasing vs buying farm machinery. 10

Alberta mission to Alaska 11

Alberta Horticultural Research Center field day 13

Field day at Alberta Environmental Centre. 15

Soil conservation specialist appointed 16

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

For immediate release

Federal fuel tax changes can be confusing for farmers

In the May 24, 1985 Budget and on June 27, 1985, Federal Finance Minister Wilson announced a series of tax changes. The following summarizes these changes as they relate to gasoline and diesel fuel.

Gasoline and diesel fuel federal excise tax increases

Effective September 3, 1985, the following rates of federal excise tax will be payable on gasoline and diesel fuel:

gasoline (all grades) . . . . . 3.5 cents per litre
diesel fuel . . . . . 2.0 cents per litre

Effective January 1, 1987, the following rates of federal excise tax will be payable on gasoline and diesel fuel:

gasoline (all grades) . . . . . 4.5 cents per litre
diesel fuel . . . . . 3.0 cents per litre

Of this federal excise tax, the previous rebate of 1.5 cents per litre **for gasoline only** is **still in effect** for farmers. The remainder of the excise tax is **not eligible** for rebate.

Fuel tax rebate still in effect for **off-public road** use **only**

The "fuel tax rebate" of 3.0 cents per litre on gasoline and diesel fuel will be in effect from December 1, 1984 till December 31, 1986.

The usage having the least amount should be documented on a per litre basis. For example, litres of gasoline (purple) used on **off-public** road should be documented, as well as litres of diesel fuel (purple) used on **public** roads.

Petroleum compensation charge (effective December 1, 1984 to May 31, 1985 only)

Farmers purchasing gasoline and diesel fuel on and after June 1, 1985 may no longer claim the 1.8 cents per litre tax rebate from their licensed or registered suppliers or directly from Excise Branch, Ottawa.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Federal fuel tax changes can be confusing for farmers (cont'd)

Gasoline and diesel purchases between December 1, 1984 and May 31, 1985 though, **are eligible** for the 1.8 cents per litre rebate. This rebate is for **off-public road use** only.

One year deadline announced on fuel sales and excise tax rebate applications

Claims **must** be filed **within one year** from the earliest date of purchase for which the rebate was not applied for. **For example,** if gasoline was purchased on December 15, 1984, then the rebate must be filed no later than December 15, 1985.

All eligible fuel related rebates can be applied for at any time — as long as the above deadline is met.

Application procedure for the different fuel rebates

To apply for the "fuel tax rebate", a brown booklet entitled "*Application for Rebate of Fuel Tax on Gasoline and Diesel*" (form FT-3) can be obtained from your dealer or nearest Revenue Canada federal excise office (in Calgary or Edmonton). The completed form should then be mailed to Ottawa in the envelope provided.

To apply for the "petroleum compensation charge" rebate, the **same** form and application procedure as that used for the "fuel tax rebate" should be used.

To apply for the "federal excise tax on gasoline" rebate, a blue booklet entitled *Claim for Refund of Federal Excise Tax on Gasoline* (form XE8) can be obtained at your local post office or nearest federal excise office. The completed form should then be mailed to Ottawa in the envelope provided.

Application for sales tax bulk permit

This "sales tax bulk permit" is an application for a permit number which would allow a farmer to purchase gasoline and/or diesel fuel in bulk from a **registered** supplier — free of the 3 cents per litre sales tax. This green form can be obtained from your dealer or nearest federal excise office.

- (cont'd) -

Federal fuel tax changes can be confusing for farmers (cont'd)

Example

From August 1, 1984 until November 30, 1984 an Alberta farmer, Fred Jones, bought 50,000 litres of purple diesel and 2,000 litres of purple gasoline.

From December 1, 1984 until April 1, 1985 he bought 40,000 litres of purple diesel and 1500 litres of purple gasoline. On May 2, Fred obtained a "sales tax bulk permit" number. Then on June 10, he purchased another 20,000 litres of purple diesel.

Fred estimated that 10 per cent of his purple gas was used off-public road and five per cent of his diesel fuel was used on-public road.

Calculations

Purple diesel sales tax rebates

	Aug. 1, 1984 to Nov 30, 1985	Dec 2, 1984 to May 30, 1985
Purchases	50,000 L	40,000 L
On-road use (5%)	2,500 L	2,000 L
Eligible off-road use	47,500 L	38,000 L
Fuel tax rebate @ 3¢/litre	NIL	$ 1,140.00
Petroleum compensation charge rebate @ 1.8 ¢/litre	NIL	684.00
Total rebate:	NIL	$ 1,824.00

Purple diesel sales tax payable on bulk purchases*

	June 10, 1984
Bulk permit purchases	20,000 L
On-road use (5%)	1,000 L
Fuel tax rebate @ 3 ¢/litre	$ 30.00
Petroleum compensation charge rebate @ 1.8 ¢/litre	NIL
Total payable	$ 30.00

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Federal fuel tax changes can be contuing for farmers (cont'd)

* For "bulk permit" purchases, it is important to remember that the selling price assumes a 100 per cent off-road usage. The sales tax portion for on-road usage (1,000 litres) will be repayable to the government at date of rebate application. In the above example, the amount repayable would be $30.

Purple gasoline sales and excise tax rebates

	Aug 1, 1984 to Nov 30, 1985	Dec 1, 1984 to May 30, 1985
Purchases (eligible for excise tax rebate)	2,000 L	1,500 L
On-road use (90%)	1,800 L	1,350 L
Off-road use (eligible for sales tax rebates)	200 L	150 L
Excise Tax rebate @ 1.5¢ /litre	$ 30.00	$ 22.50
Fuel tax rebate @ 3 ¢/litre	NIL	4.50
Petroleum compensation charge rebate @ 1.8 ¢/litre	NIL	2.70
Total rebate:	$ 30.00	$ 29.70

For additional information, contact your local district excise officer at:

Dept. of National Revenue, Excise
Box 2525
Station M
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3B7

Telephone: 231-5678

Dept. of National Revenue, Excise
Suite 610
10055-106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2Y2

Telephone: 420-3420

- 30 -

Contact:

Alex Ostapiuk
Farm Business Management Branch, Olds
556-4235

July 22, 1985

For immediate release

Custom herbicide application fees in 1985

The results of a survey conducted in June and July of 1985 on custom herbicide application rates have been released by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch and the farm business management branch.

The following tables contain a summary of the results:

1985 aerial herbicide application rates based on gallons of water per acre

Gallons	Region			
	South		Central	
	Range	Most common	Range	Most Common
1	$2.60-$3.25	$2.75-$3.25	$3.05-$3.50	$3.10-$3.25
2	$3.00-$3.75	$3.20-$3.50	$3.55-$3.75	$3.55-$3.75
3	$3.25-$4.25	$3.50-$4.00	$3.65-$4.25	$3.65-$4.25
4+	$4.10-$7.00	$4.50-$5.25	$3.50-$5.00	$4.55-$5.00

	North	
	Range	Most common
1	$3.00-$3.50	$3.00-$3.25
2	$3.70-$4.00	$3.70-$4.00
3	$4.25	$4.25
4+	—	—

The southern region of Alberta is the area from Olds south to the American border, the central region is the area from Olds north to Edmonton, and the northern region is the area north of Edmonton and includes the Peace River region.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Custom herbicide application fees in 1985 (cont'd)

1985 ground herbicide application fees per acre

	South	Central	North
Floater	$2.00-$5.00	$2.50-$3.00	$2.75-$3.25
Air seeder	$2.50-$3.50	—	$7.50-$8.50*
Pull type	$3.25**	$1.25**	$2.50-$2.75
Truck mount	$1.75-$2.00	$2.20-$3.00	$2.00-$2.75

* Dual banding
** One report

According to Gerd Andres of the farm business management branch, herbicide application fees for 1985 have increased from 1984. He also reports that only three per cent of the aerial survey results were for helicopter spraying as compared to 97 per cent for fixed wing aircraft this year.

Mr. Andres says the reason for different in-ground herbicide application fees is the result of several factors: amount of water used, type of herbicide, whether liquid or granular, and number of acres to be treated.

More information on rates for custom work on farms can be obtained from Alberta Agriculture's district agriculturists, the statistics branch in Edmonton (427-4018), or the farm business management branch in Olds (556-4240).

- 30 -

Contact:

Gerd Andres
556-4247

July 22, 1985

For immediate release

Fertilizer Field Day

Fertilizer will be the focus of an Alberta Agriculture field day to be held on July 30, at 1:30 p.m. at the Steve Tokarium farm. The farm is located two miles east of Lethbridge on Highway 3 and five miles north, or one mile west of Broxburn on Highway 3 and five miles north.

Crops at the plot site	Fertilizer treatments
Soft wheat	Nitrogen rates (12 per crop)
Hard wheat	Phosphorus rates (13 per crop)
HY 320	- Deep banded
Utility wheat	- Seed placed
Durum	- Side banded
Flax	- Acid phosphorus
Canola	Potassium and sulphur trials
Peas	Micronutrient trials
Beans	

A highlight of the field day will be an examination of soil testing labs comparison plots. Fertilizer recommendations of six labs were applied to both irrigated barley and soft wheat to compare crop yield and quality of each lab recommendation.

For further information, please contact: Ross McKenzie, soil fertility specialist, Alberta Agriculture, Lethbridge, telephone: 381-5126.

- 30 -

Contact:

Ross McKenzie
381-5126

July 22, 1985

For immediate release

Do-it-yourself drill kit may not produce promised water well

According to Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch, a do-it-yourself well drilling kit called "Hydra-Drill", falls short of the manufacturer's claims.

A product of the Deep-Rock Company of Opelica, Alabama, the kit is brought into Alberta mainly by returning vacationers but can also be ordered directly from the company.

Although the manufacturer claims that over 6000 wells have been drilled in the United States with the Hydra-Drill, little is known about its performance in Alberta, says Archie Archampong, water engineer with Alberta Agriculture.

Recently the engineering branch of Alberta Agriculture tested the Hydra-Drill P300 at a site near Alberta Beach. The geological formations in this location were mainly clays, sand and gravel, sandstone, shale and coal. The drill failed to penetrate the sand and gravel formation and the tungsten tip drill bit could not cut into the occasional hard rocks it encountered. Rocks that were pushed aside, later fell on the bit, wedging the drive mechanism. "The drilling operation was generally frustrating, dangerous and unsuccessful," reports Mr. Archampong.

The pamphlet used to promote the Hydra-Drill also falls short: very little emphasis is placed on potential hazards, local well drilling regulations and the knowledge and experience required to drill a well.

In Alberta, the water well drilling business is regulated by The Groundwater Development Regulations Act (1980). Under these regulations, a person who owns a Hydra-Drill can only drill wells on his own property – not on another person's land. In addition, some local government by-laws prohibit the drilling of wells within the governed boundaries.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch
Phone: (403) 427-2121

Do-it-yourself drill kit may not produce promised water well (cont'd)

According to Mr. Archampong drilling a well is not an easy task. ''The drilling operation itself can be hazardous and you may require some welding skills for repair and modification of the drill stem and bit'', he says.

For general information on water well drilling, contact the groundwater information section of Alberta Environment. Alberta Agriculture's publication *Water Well Drilling Agreements, Agdex 716 (A12)* also provides useful information about water wells. For additional information on the Hydra-Drill trial, contact your local district agriculturist or regional engineering technologist.

- 30 -

Contact:

Archie Archampong
427-2181

For immediate release

Leasing vs buying farm machinery

The decision of whether to buy or lease farm machinery is one which many Alberta farmers must face. To help make that decision easier, a new publication, *Leasing vs Buying Farm Machinery,* has been released.

"The publication compares the advantages and disadvantages of different leasing arrangements versus buying machinery," says Craig Edwards, farm management economist with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch.

For accounting purposes, the publication explains operating leases and capital leases using the guidelines of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants Handbook. Reference is also made to Revenue Canada interpretation bulletin IT-233R because of the income tax implications of buying or leasing.

A method of directly comparing payments when leasing or buying is clearly demonstrated using present values of annual net cash outflows. Using a pencil, calculator and the financial tables provided, you can figure out which is the best deal for you, says Mr. Edwards.

The comparison can be made more quickly and easily by using a computer program developed by the farm business management branch. Many different possibilities can be considered and calculated individually on the program. The program is available for use by contacting a district agriculturist or regional economist who has a computer and the program or by calling the farm business management branch at Olds.

Leasing vs Buying Farm Machinery, Agdex 825-19, offers farmers and their advisors useful information and tools for making decisions on leasing or buying machinery. It's available from Alberta Agriculture district offices and the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Craig Edwards
556-4248

July 22, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta mission to Alaska

Alberta Agriculture's Deputy Minister Ben McEwen led a successful mission to Alaska, June 23 to 27, 1985.

The delegation was composed of Alberta Agriculture's assistant deputy minister of research and resource development, the University of Alberta's vice-dean of agriculture and three Alberta Agriculture officials.

The major focus of the mission was the Agricultural Research Agreement between Alberta and Alaska which was first signed in 1981. Officials from both governments looked at ways they could work together in the future to maintain its momentum.

Alberta officials are interested in acquiring valuable genetic plant material suitable for northern Alberta. To accomplish this, it was suggested that a joint effort be undertaken by representatives from the Beaverlodge Research Station and the Alberta Environmental Centre at Vegreville who would study the availability of hardy forage and cereal crops in Alaska.

"The exchange of research is valuable in itself," said Mr. McEwen. "If we discover one variety of seed suitable for Alberta's northern region the research agreement will have been worthwhile. This would represent a real benefit to all of northern agriculture."

During the mission, the University of Alberta's proposal to accept graduate students from the University of Alaska was strongly supported. It is hoped that the students from the University of Alaska would benefit from University of Alberta's strength in northern agriculture.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta mission to Alaska (cont'd)

Alberta Agriculture officials also attended the National Agricultural Communications in Education Conference (ACE) in Fairbanks. Mr. McEwen presented the keynote address to the Pacific Rim Seminar in which he talked about Alberta's approach to trade with Western U.S.A. and Pacific Asia countries. A profile of the province's agricultural industry was also conveyed by film and brief presentations at the conference banquet.

The development of trade between Alaska and Alberta was also pursued during the mission, particularly in the areas of processed meats, Holstein cattle and feedstuffs such as alfalfa pellets and screening by-products.

- 30 -

Contact:

Lou Normand
427-4241

July 22, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Horticultural Research Center Field Day

The Alberta Horticultural Research Center's 23rd Annual Field Day will be held on Friday, August 30, 1985. This year marks the 50th Anniversary for the Horticulture Center and the theme "50 Years of Progress" will be featured at the field day. Special displays will include a time tunnel featuring photographs of developments and production practices spanning the past 50 years.

A number of other exhibits and displays are also planned, namely fruit and vegetables, herbs and spices, irrigation, special crops and woody ornamentals and tissue culture of potatoes. Alberta Agriculture district home economists will feature "Vegetables For a Healthy Lifestyle" with information and displays on nutrition, cooking methods and creative uses of vegetables.

Films, demonstrations and lectures will be offered throughout the day on topics including composting, pest management, food preservation, soil conservation, plant breeding, plant propagation, and pruning. A special lecture will be presented by former superintendent, Mr. Duncan Hargrave, on "Changes in Gardening Technology".

Guided tours of the vegetable, fruit, ornamental and special crops research plots and the AHRC's research greenhouses will provide visitors with the opportunity to see various research projects being conducted.

Specialists in the plant pest clinic will be available to diagnose and discuss plant disease, insect and weed problems. Visitors are encouraged to bring samples or specimens with them for diagnosis.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta Horticultural Research Center Field Day (cont'd)

The field day is designed to provide up-to-date information to all horticultural enthusiasts, and everyone is invited. People or groups wishing special attention are encouraged to visit the Center at some other time during the summer season when special arrangements can be made. Visitors will be served fresh corn-on-the-cob and refreshments, however, they should bring a bag lunch.

Visitors must be prepared to do a limited amount of walking while visiting displays and between parking and picnic areas.

A special invitation is extended to all former staff (part-time and permanent employees) for this occasion. Former staff will be asked to register so they can be properly identified. A reception for former staff, hosted by the AHRC, will be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on August 30.

Further details on the program which will begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue until 4:00 p.m., can be obtained from the Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO, phone, 362-3391. The Center is located five kilometres east of Brooks on the Trans-Canada Highway.

- 30 -

Contact:

Rudy Esau
or
Brendan Casement
362-3391

July 22, 1985

For immediate release

Field day at Alberta Environmental Centre

The plant sciences wing of the Alberta Environmental Centre, Vegreville, will hold its third annual field day on Thursday, August 1. A wagon tour of research plots in weed science, plant diseases and soils starts at 1:30 p.m.

This year weed scientists, Drs. Fayaz Qureshi, Paul Sharma, John O'Donovan and Alec McClay have established field experiments to study weed control with newly registered and experimental herbicides and herbicide mixtures; tolerance of new cereal varieties to registered herbicides; tolerance of rotational crops to herbicide carryover; competition and crop losses due to weeds; and biological control of selected weeds with insects. An excellent collection of 80 weed species has been established in a weed garden. Tours of the weed garden will be conducted by Gerry Wheeler.

Research plots on plant diseases such as alfalfa decline, seedling blight in canola and lentils, sclerotinia stem rot of canola, and root rot and foliar diseases in cereals, will be shown by Dr. Prem Kharbanda, plant pathologist. Soil scientist Richard Johnson will demonstrate how cropping systems can be used to control soil salinization.

The tours will be of special interest to producers but everyone is welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served during the course of the tours. For further information contact Jim Bradley at 632-6761.

- 30 -

Contact:

Jim Bradley
632-6761

July 22, 1985

For immediate release

Soil conservation specialist appointed

Thomas Jensen has been appointed soil conservation specialist with Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch. The appointment which will be effective August 1, 1985 was announced by John Hermans, head of the soil conservation section.

A southern Alberta native, Mr. Jensen grew up on a mixed farm near Coaldale, where he gained experience in both dryland and irrigated farming.

He graduated from the University of Alberta in 1979 with a B.Sc. in agriculture majoring in agronomy. Presently, he is completing his M.Sc. in soil science.

Mr. Jensen carried out four years of conservation tillage research working under Dr. Wayne Lindwall at the Lethbridge research station. During this time he conducted a Farming for the Future research project comparing no-till and conventional tillage in both a continuous and crop fallow rotation. Prior to his present appointment, Mr. Jensen worked with the land classification branch in Lethbridge doing soil classifications to determine land suitability for irrigation.

As soil conservation specialist at Edmonton, Mr. Jensen will deal with soil conservation and reclamation programs on a province-wide basis. He will work closely with Agricultural Service Boards and regional specialists on erosion control, conservation tillage and conservation weed control systems.

- 30 -

Contact:

Thomas Jensen
422-4385

AGRI-NEWS

AL 1.691

July 29, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Queen Mother scholarship announced 1
Alternate feeds for cattle during a feed shortage 3
1985 custom rates for fertilizer applications 6
Dispose of pesticide-treated canola seed 8
Drought conditions leave soil prone to wind erosion 9
Growing cauliflower is a lot of work 11
Red meat can't be beat 13
Toll-free vegetable produce line in operation 15
Commercial growers vegetable tour 16
Spring wheat production field day 17
Correction 18

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

July 29, 1985

For immediate release

Queen Mother scholarship announced

In honor of the Queen Mother's visit to Alberta this summer to attend the World Angus Forum, the Alberta government has presented her majesty with a scholarship to be given out in her name.

The **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother** scholarship was presented as a gift to her majesty by LeRoy Fjordbotten, Alberta's minister of agriculture.

The Queen Mother's interest and affection for youth are well known, and as she is the sponsor of the Angus breed of cattle, a scholarship supporting the rural economy was thought most appropriate.

The $1,500 scholarship will be awarded every year for the next 10 years to students in the fields of agriculture, home economics, veterinary science (large animal), and agricultural engineering. One scholarship will be awarded in 1985 and three per year for the remaining nine years of the term.

This special scholarship, sponsored by Alberta Agriculture, is open to students studying the specified fields and who have been residents of Alberta for at least three years. Recipients may attend any university in Canada — and years one to four are eligible.

The selection of applicants will be based on academic performance, leadership and contribution to community. Selection will be made by a committee made up of government and private industry representatives.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Queen Mother scholarship announced (cont'd)

Information and applications for the **Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother** scholarship will be available from educational institutes in Alberta in January 1986.

Applications will be received starting January of each year at the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture in Edmonton. Application deadline will be July 15, 1986.

- 30 -

Contact :

Elizabeth Webster or Val Runyon
427-2541

July 29, 1985

For immediate release

Alternate feeds for cattle during a feed shortage

If feed is going to be in short supply for your cattle this winter, plan ahead and prepare for the situation you will face. "This is the first of several articles on management alternatives cattlemen may want to review and implement to successfully manage their way through the feed shortage this year," says Dave Plett, ruminant nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture.

The dry weather is taking its toll on hay and grain crops and as a result, the animal nutritionists at the provincial soil and feed testing laboratory are facing more requests for information on the feeding quality of various crop residues and by-products. Following is a review of some feeding practices and alternatives that cattlemen may want to consider.

- Harvest additional feeds available in your area. The most common feed for maintaining dry pregnant cows is straw. Supplemented properly with grain and possibly a protein supplement, it will go a long way towards maintaining cows that begin the winter in good condition, until the last trimester of pregnancy.

- Chaff collection as a feed supplement has seen interest of late. Coarse grain chaff can contain a reasonable number of slightly shrunken seeds or weed seeds which the combine has sorted for you. Equipment is available to accumulate and pile this by-product which can also be a reasonably good energy supplement for dry cows.

- Treatment of either of these crop by-products with anhydrous ammonia can improve the digestible energy and protein to a level where it could be the sole feed required for the major portion of the feeding program.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alternate feed for cattle during a feed shortage (cont'd)

- Harvesting barley or oats as greenfeed instead of as grain will also prove an economical decision as hay prices are anticipated to rise during the winter. Greenfeed, harvested in the early dough stages, is a high quality forage that can be fed in conjunction with straw during the dry period and can reduce supplementation requirements during calving and lactation periods.

- Much interest has been expressed in harvesting canola crops as hay or silage. The greatest obstacle to producing high quality forage from canola is its high moisture content. Researchers at the University of Alberta and the Horticultural Research Center at Brooks have found that waiting until the crop is fully podded but still green will reduce the moisture content at harvest, hence less drying is required, and a reasonably good quality is maintained. If harvested as silage, consider alternating truckloads of cereal silage and canola silage as you fill the pit to eliminate problems with a very high moisture silage.

- Much interest has been seen lately in many of the feed supplements on the market. Products range from high quality alfalfa cubes through various range cubes to grain screenings, liquid supplements and a number of other production or processing by-products. The true secret in using one of these products as a supplement is to use only as much as your cattle require. Over supplementation is a costly waste and under supplementation is inefficient and reduces your animals' production.

- When deciding on a feed supplement, consider the physical limitations and benefits of the feeds as well as the cost involved. For example, a barley grain mineral mix may provide the required nutrients that cows on winter range require, but without proper feeding facilities, the losses incurred by on-ground feeding may dictate that a range pellet is more

- (cont'd) -

Alternate feed for cattle during a feed shortage (cont'd)

economical, or vice-versa. To determine if you need a supplement, and at which levels, feed test your existing feeds at a feed analysis lab, and balance rations to meet your animals' requirements.

Your district agriculturist or regional livestock producer can assist you in this matter if you are in doubt.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dave Plett
436-9150

July 29, 1985

For immediate release

1985 custom rates for fertilizer applications

Custom rates charged for fertilizer applications this year were higher than the rates charged in 1984, according to the annual Alberta Agriculture survey of custom applicators. The survey was conducted by the statistics branch in cooperation with the farm business management branch in June, 1985.

The following table compares 1984 and 1985 fertilizer application rates. The rates are for liquid or granular fertilizer and the charge is for custom application only.

Charge for custom fertilizer application per acre

	Most Common 1984	Range 1985	Most Common 1985
Pull type	$1.75-$2.50	$2.00-$4.00	$3.00-$3.25
Floater	$2.75-$3.00	$2.75-$4.00	$3.00-$3.50
Truck-mounted	$2.50-$2.75	$1.75-$3.25	$2.75-$3.00
Air seeder	$4.00-$5.00	$3.25-$8.50	$6.50-$7.50
Fixed wing	$3.50-$4.00	$3.50-$5.00	$4.00
Helicopter	$3.50	$4.00	$4.00

Anhydrous fertilizer ranged from $445 to $525 per tonne, while the most common charge was $455 to $485 per tonne. This price includes the product at spring price, delivery and applicator rental.

Gerd Andres of the farm business management branch suggests the increase in custom fertilizer application fees may be owing to: 1) higher machinery prices in the last year and 2) custom fertilizer rates in the last two years have decreased or remained stable, and thus this year the custom operator could no longer take the price-cost squeeze.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

1985 custom rates for fertilizer applications (cont'd)

Mr. Andres says that in past years the custom application rates were quoted separately for southern, central and northern Alberta to allow for regional price differences, but in the last two years the survey showed little regional difference in the prices charged across Alberta. However, there was a regional difference in the most common applicator used. In southern Alberta, the most common applicator was the floater. In central and northern Alberta the most common spreader used was a truck-mounted applicator.

More information on custom rates for all farm operations can be obtained from your local district agriculturists, from the farm business management branch (556-4240) or from the statistics branch (427-4018) of Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

Contact:

Gerd Andres
556-4247

July 29, 1985

For immediate release

Dispose of pesticide-treated canola seed

Alberta beef and dairy cattle producers should ensure that all pesticide-treated canola seed is disposed of properly and not left around where livestock can gain access to it.

According to Dr. Ralph Christian, Alberta Agriculture's director of animal health, three cases of cattle consuming this toxic seed have been reported so far this summer.

"Many farmers don't realize how deadly this seed can be," says Dr. Christian. "It only takes one or two pounds of seed to kill an adult cow."

Usually, the problem arises when seed has been left behind after cleaning out the seed drill or using the auger to mix seed.

In addition to the risk of killing livestock, there's also the danger of pesticide residues such as Lindane remaining in the meat and milk of the cattle. This renders the milk unsuitable for use and delays the time at which cattle can be brought to market.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. Ralph Christian
427-2166

July 29, 1985

For immediate release

Drought conditions leave soil prone to wind erosion

During the winter and spring of 1985, southern Alberta experienced the worst wind erosion since the "dirty thirties" with more than one million acres of land affected by serious drifting. Even during January and February, more than one million acres continued to drift and some fields in the Lethbridge area lost as much as two inches of soil.

According to John Hermans, head of Alberta Agriculture's soil conservation section, wind erosion in the winter and spring of 1986 is expected to be three to five times more severe.

Two main factors are involved in next year's predicted wind erosion problem:

- Drought conditions in 1984 left lands to be summerfallowed this year with little residue cover to begin with. "If the land was worked at all this summer it will now be virtually bare," says Mr. Hermans.
- Drought conditions experienced again this year will leave even the cropped land with inadequate protective cover.

Mr. Hermans offers this rule of thumb: "If you can see any soil drifting, you are losing four to five tons per acre. In many storms last winter we were losing 50 to 100 tons per acre."

Although conditions for wind erosion are the most serious that we have seen since the thirties, there are still some things that producers can do to minimize the impact:

- Do not till the land. Leave the crop residue to protect the soil. Standing stubble may even provide an extra benefit by trapping snow. If seedbed preparation is necessary delay cultivation as long as possible.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Drought conditions leave soil prone to wind erosion (cont'd)

- If the land is to be summerfallowed, consider the use of herbicides instead of tillage to control weeds.
- Plant cover crops; either annual cereals or winter crops such as winter wheat or fall rye will provide good protection from soil erosion, particularly on lands that were summerfallowed this year. They will also provide a much needed source of livestock feed.

For further information contact your district agriculturist or Alberta Agriculture's conservation and development branch, 2nd Floor, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6, telephone 422-4385.

- 30 -

Contact:

John C. Hermans
422-4385

July 29, 1985

For immediate release

Growing cauliflower is a lot of work

There's no secret to growing good white cauliflower, just a lot of work.

First of all, it's important to grow the right cultivars. White Rock, White Fox, Self Blanche and Andes all have the potential for producing a good marketable crop, says Phil Dixon, extension horticulturist with the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre.

These varieties all have large leaves which up to a point will keep the curd covered and protected from the sunshine which causes discoloration.

In fact, Self Blanche gets its name from its large leaves which protect the curd. However, this only works as long as the leaves are kept turgid with adequate soil moisture. If a stress situation occurs, the leaves fall and the white curd becomes yellow.

Many growers either break three large inside leaves and bend them over the curd, or they tie them with string or elastic. These methods are done at the button stage (one to two inches in diameter). The time from seed to button stage varies with the cultivar, but the time from button to market size is the same for all those plants that button at the same time. It's a good idea to color code the strings or elastics, using one color each day. All the blue ones will be ready the same time so you don't have to check the entire field. Use four to five different colors, advises Mr. Dixon.

Hydrocooling the cauliflower after harvesting will increase its shelf life considerably. This takes out the field heat and slows the respiration process, thus keeping the cauliflower in the same state as when it was cut. It's important to cut cauliflower in the cool of the morning before it heats up. Then put the cauliflower into an ice bath for 15 minutes. This will bring down the temperature of the cauliflower and help keep it white longer. The black specks that appear on the curd will also be slower to appear.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Growing cauliflower, is a lot of work (cont'd)

If you are going to keep the cauliflower for awhile or try to market it wholesale, it should be wrapped. This can be done by putting a plastic bag over the entire curd or using a polypropylene plastic wrap (crinkle). "Wrapping will make your product last longer and the wholesalers are always impressed with a wrapped product," says Mr. Dixon.

- 30 -

Contact:

Phil Dixon
973-3351

July 29, 1985

For immediate release

Red meat can't be beat

When you bite into a juicy hamburger or slice into a sizzling steak you're benefiting from one of the most nutritious foods around.

Despite the negative image red meat has acquired in recent years, it remains an unbeatable source of nutrients that are essential to the human body. In fact, red meat is considered to be a "nutrient dense" food containing nearly all of the 50-plus nutrients needed each day.

According to Aileen Whitmore, provincial food and nutrition specialist with Alberta Agriculture, red meat contributes significantly to this dietary need by supplying measurable amounts of protein, iron, zinc, other minerals, B vitamins and fat.

Protein is an essential part of every living cell and is necessary to build and repair body tissues. Red meat provides complete protein which means all of the essential amino acids for growth. One three ounce serving of meat will supply nearly half of a person's daily protein need.

Red meat is a good source of iron in a form that is readily available to the body. In contrast, iron in most other foods such as vegetables and grains is in a form that is not as easily available to the body.

Zinc is one of the minerals found in red meat. It is essential for humans, and has a role in the maintenance of a normal sense of taste.

Red meats provide significant amounts of B vitamins: thiamine, necessary for carbohydrate metabolism; riboflavin, important for growth; niacin, for building and maintaining healthy tissues; vitamin B6, to prevent anemia; and vitamin B12, necessary for healthy blood and to prevent pernicious anemia. Vitamin B12 is only available from animal sources.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Red meat can't be beat (cont'd)

Fat is probably the most controversial nutrient found in red meat. It provides a concentrated form of energy for the body, supplies needed fatty acids, and acts as a carrier for the fat soluble vitamins, A,D,E,K. In addition, it contributes to a feeling of satiety after the meal. While fat has been associated with a number of diseases, the evidence is still unclear. "The recommended approach is to eat in moderation and to select your diet from a wide variety of foods," says Ms. Whitmore.

- 30 -

Contact:

Aileen Whitmore
427-2412

July 29, 1985

For immediate release

Toll-free vegetable produce line in operation

The Alberta Market Gardeners Association has installed a toll-free line to assist Alberta consumers to obtain farm-fresh, Alberta small fruits and vegetables.

From July 30, 1985 until about October 31, 1985, anyone in Alberta can call "The Greens Line" to obtain information on what produce is available, where, and how to get to the grower farm as well as dates and times of operation.

The Greens Line will be in operation Wednesday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. These times may vary slightly.

The toll-free Greens Line number is : 1-800-332-1291.

For more information about the Alberta Market Gardeners Association or for a membership application, please write to: Lloyd Hausher, Market Garden Specialist, Alberta Horticultural Research Center, Bag Service 200, Brooks, Alberta, TOJ OJO.

- 30 -

Contact:

Lloyd Hausher
362-3391

July 29, 1985

For immediate release

Commercial growers vegetable tour

The Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre will hold a commercial growers vegetable tour on Tuesday, August 6.

The day's events will include a walking tour of crops at Hole's farm, a stop at Kuhlmann's farm to see tunneled pickling cucumbers with drip irrigation under black plastic, a look at root maggot rutabaga experimental plots, and various vegetable research plots.

Those planning to attend should meet at the Alberta Tree Nursery and Horticulture Centre at 8:15 a.m. To get there, turn east off the Manning Freeway at 167 avenue, then turn north onto the Fort Road.

To register, call Phil Dixon at 973-3351. There is a $5 fee payable on August 6 to cover morning coffee and doughnuts, lunch and the day's transportation.

- 30 -

Contact:

Phil Dixon
973-3351

July 29, 1985

For immediate release

Spring wheat production field day

Spring wheat yields under high input intensive crop management (ICM) will be compared to yields obtained under conventional management at a field day sponsored by the University of Alberta's plant science department on Tuesday, August 6.

The field day which begins at 1:00 p.m. will be held at Fuhr Farms located one mile west of Spruce Grove.

The large-scale plot treatments include:

- varieties – Neepawa, HY320, Oslo (semi-dwarf)
- fertilizer – 90 vs 180 lbs N/acre
- fungicide – Tilt
- plant growth regulators – Cerone, Cycocel
- seed rates
- tramlines for accurate spraying

For further information, please contact Dr. Keith Briggs at 432-4502 or Dorian Audette at 434-4969.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. Keith Briggs – 432-4502

Dorian Audette – 434-4969

Correction: In Agri-News, July 22, 1985, the dates on the example calculations on the article entitled *Federal Fuel Tax Changes Can Be Confusing For Farmers* should have read:

Purple diesel sales tax rebates

August 1, 1984 to November 30, **1984**

December 1, 1984 to May 30, 1985

Purple diesel sales tax payable on bulk purchases

June 10, **1985**

20,000 L

Purple gasoline sales and excise tax rebates

August 1, 1984 to November 30, **1984**

On page 2 of the same article it should have read:

One year deadline announced on fuel sales tax rebate applications

Claims must be filed within one year from the earliest date of purchase for which the **fuel tax and petroleum compensation charge rebates** were not applied for. For example, if gasoline was purchased on December 15, 1984, then the rebates must be filed no later than December 15, 1985.

Four year deadline still in effect on excise tax rebate applications

Claims **must be** filed **within four years** from the earliest date of purchase for which the rebate was not applied for. For example, if gasoline was purchased on December 15, **1981,** then the rebate must be filed no later than December 15, 1985.

Contact:

Alex Ostapiuk
Farm Business Management Branch, Olds
556-4235

AGRI-NEWS

AL 1.E9

CANADIANA
AUG 2 7 1985

August 5, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Analyzing the new game plan for capital gains 1
Sample rations for wintering beef cattle using alternate feeds 5
4-H'ers tour Alberta's agricultural developments 8
Custom crop seeding charges in 1985 10
Alberta Smoky saskatoons — a savory success 11
Livestock nitrate poisoning 13
4-H youth participate in operation enterprise 14
Processed food consultant appointed 15
Cereal plot field day at Calmar 16
Alberta sunflower tour 17

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

August 5, 1985

For immediate release

Analyzing the new game plan for capital gains

The old axiom, "haste makes waste" may be very applicable to farmers who decide to act quickly on the proposed changes contained in the May 23, 1985 federal budget.

It is becoming apparent that in certain circumstances, decisions based on the capital gains exemption contained in the budget should not be made until the draft legislation is presented, says Merle Good with Alberta Agriculture's farm business management branch. The draft legislation explains the rules and regulations of how the government is going to implement their intent. Remember, the budget only explains their intentions and not the procedure or the actual law, he adds.

To highlight some of the controversy that surrounds the new $500,000 capital gains lifetime exemptions, the following questions and answers are presented.

The budget states that the sale of "qualifying farm property" will result in the full $500,000 capital gains exemption being available immediately. Qualified farm property consists of real property (land and buildings), corporate shares or partnership interest that was used by the taxpayer, spouse, or child in the business of farming. For other property the phase-in rules will apply. These rules allow a cumulative exemption of $20,000 in 1985; rising to $50,000 in 1986; $100,000 in 1987; $200,000 in 1988; $300,000 in 1989; and $500,000 in 1990.

Question

I presently rent my land to my neighbor on a cash rent basis and now wish to sell this property to him. Can I use the $500,000 capital gains exemption?

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Analyzing the new game plan for capital gains (cont'd)

Answer

Yes, Michael Wilson stated on July 25, that if the farm property was used in the business of farming for at least five years after 1972 by either the taxpayer or his or her children or spouse, then the $500,000 capital gains exemption applies immediately. If, however, this qualification is not met then the phase-in rules will apply to sales of farm land and buildings.

Q. Can I structure the sale to receive $20,000 of capital gain in 1985, $30,000 in 1986 and the remaining $50,000 in 1987 and thus match my proceeds to the phase-in rules?

A. Regretfully there is no definite answer to your question. The strategy is technically a combination of the existing capital gains reserve rules and the new phase-in rules. It appears that the government is intending to block this type of strategy combination. Assuming a combination is not allowed, the seller has the choice either to use the capital gains reserves or to utilize the available capital gains exemption in the year of sale, but not both.

Q. I sold my land in 1984 and bought an RRSP for $120,000 in February 1985 to shelter the taxable capital gain. What should I do now with the RRSP since it is effectively cancelled in the budget?

A. The special RRSP option for the sale of farm property has been cancelled but for only those sales that took place after 1984. Your $500,000 capital gains exemption will remain for future dispositions of capital property, however, the RRSP funds upon withdrawal will remain taxable.

- (cont'd) -

Analyzing the new game plan for capital gains (cont'd)

Q. If I had sold my land in 1985 and purchased an RRSP would the same rules apply?

A. No, if special RRSP contributions were made before May 24, 1985, the eligibility for the $500,000 capital gains exemption will be reduced by the amount of the contribution. However, if the funds are withdrawn prior to the end of 1985, eligibility for the taxable capital gains exemption will be restored. In other words, if you had sold your land in 1985 and contributed $120,000 to an RRSP, you are faced with the option of either leaving the RRSP intact or withdrawing the funds prior to year-end with no penalty. In some circumstances the RRSP investment will be an annuity or a "locked" term deposit, whereby de-registration is not possible without triggering a penalty. In either case your lifetime capital gains exemption will be reduced to $260,000. It is imperative to realize however, that if the RRSP funds are not withdrawn by the end of this year, that subsequent withdrawals may be deemed taxable!

Q. I sold my dairy herd and quota this year. The increase in my quota value was $150,000. Can I shelter this income under the new $500,000 capital gains exemption?

A. No, quota is classified under the Income Tax Act as eligible capital property and although the gain is treated similar to a capital gain for tax purposes, it is not a true "capital gain". The disposition of quota therefore, does not qualify for the $500,000 capital gains exemption.

Q. Does the new exemption on capital gains replace the present family farm rollover provision?

A. No, a farmer can use the $500,000 exemption and then still roll-over any accrued capital gain to his children on a tax deferred basis, under the family farm rollover provision. The strategy is therefore, to generate $500,000 of capital gain when assets are sold or gifted to a child before utilizing the family farm rollover provision on the remaining assets.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Analyzing the new game plan for capital gains (cont'd)

Q. I am planning to sell to my son my farm machinery at fair market value. This value exceeds my original cost and as I understand, a capital gain will result. Will this gain be eliminated under the $500,000 capital gain exemption?

A. **No.** Under the proposed rules any depreciable assets sold to a related person will be "deemed sold" at the original cost of the seller. Although your son may pay more than your original cost, his base for capital cost allowance (depreciation) will be at your original cost. This rule was intended to stop the artificial inflation of depreciable property above the original cost in order to generate a larger depreciable base for capital cost allowance purposes by the buyer.

These question and answer scenarios indicate the complexity of arranging your financial affairs in tune with a budget proposal that is not substantiated yet by draft legislation. The best piece of advice is to check with your accountant before finalizing any transfers. Proceed cautiously and perhaps the old saying, "good things come to those who wait" will apply.

- 30 -

Contact:

Merle Good
Farm Management Economist
Farm Business Management Branch, Olds
556-4237

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

August 5, 1985

For immediate release

Sample rations for wintering beef cattle using alternate feeds

With the haying season completed, now is the time for cattlemen to begin planning to obtain extra feeds that may be needed during the winter, says Dave Plett, ruminant nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture.

Quality forages are in short supply and much interest will be directed towards using supplements and low quality feeds to meet animal requirements throughout the winter. Here is a review of some basics when using alternate feeds, and some sample rations to demonstrate how you can balance a feeding program using them.

- First, analyze your existing feeds. This will allow you to supplement the exact amount you need to meet the animal's requirements and not lose money by over or under feeding. Your district agriculturist, regional livestock specialist or provincial nutritionist can assist you in developing a balanced ration if you are in doubt.

- Second, make sure the feed is in a physical form that is compatible with your feeding system. A grain mineral mix can be an inexpensive energy supplement but may require additional feeders, whereas range cubes can be fed on the ground with minimal wastage.

- Third, feed to meet the animal's requirements. A wintering beef cow requires a moderate amount of energy and a relatively small amount of protein in relation to the needs of other classes of cattle so that purchasing a high quality alfalfa as the major part of the wintering ration may be too expensive. As calving approaches, be prepared to increase protein and energy levels so that the cow does not lose too much condition which can drastically affect breeding performance after calving.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Sample rations for wintering beef cattle using alternate feeds (cont'd)

The following rations are formulated to meet the requirements of a 500 kilogram (1100 lb) dry cow in mid-pregnancy. These rations do not make allowance for wastage or the extra feed needed during very cold weather.

		Amount/Head/Day		*Cost
1.	Good barley straw	7.5 kg (16.5 lb)		37¢
	Barley grain	1.5 kg (3.3 lb)		17¢
	32% beef supplement	0.5 kg (1.1 lb)		13.2 ¢
			Total	67.2 ¢ /day
2.	Average grass hay (8.5% protein)	10 kg (22 lb)	Total	93.50¢/per day
3.	Good cereal straw	7 kg (15 lb)		33.75 ¢
	Alfalfa pellets (16% protein)	2.5 kg (5 lb)		37.5 ¢
			Total	71.25 ¢/day

* based on barley grain $125/tonne ($2.75/bushel)
straw $49.50/tonne ($45/ton)
alfalfa pellets $165/tonne ($150/ton)
32% beef supplement, $264/tonne ($240/ton)
grass hay $93.50/tonne ($85/ton)

These rations may require extra minerals, vitamins and salt to meet the specific situation.

Recently, the Alberta Agriculture Soil and Feed Testing Lab has encountered many situations where producers are attempting to utilize other alternatives such as processing wastes, chaff, seed cleaning screenings, whole canola seed and other by-product feeds. Mr. Plett has two words of caution when considering such feeds.

- (cont'd) -

Sample rations for wintering beef cattle using alternate feeds (cont'd)

"There tends to be a great deal of quality variation when dealing with crop residues and by-product feeds." When incorporated in the ration at high levels, they can have side effects such as decreased performance, reduced palatability or, more seriously, toxic effects. Seek qualified advice when using any feed you are not familiar with, he advises.

A combination of availability, convenience and cost should be considered when deciding which alternative provides the most manageable and profitable solution and still maintains the good nutritional status of the animal.

For more information on selecting and using alternative feeds for your situation, contact your local district agriculturist, regional livestock specialist or provincial nutritionist.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dave Plett
436-9150

August 5, 1985

For immediate release

4-H'ers tour Alberta's agricultural developments

L to R: Row 1: Lorraine Wrubleski, Lori Simon, Michelle Gottenbos, Shelly Ann Werenka, Kim Rutley, Row 2; Wendi Holthe, Brad Halwa, Adele Reichert, Fred Brink, Stephanie Haupt, Keith Taylor, Kevin Ellis, Anita Malyk, John Trenson, Leah Dick, Iain MacDougall

Fifteen Alberta 4-H members along with two Alberta leaders and one 4-H staff member began an educational tour of agriculture in Alberta and the Northwest Territories on Tuesday, July 30, 1985.

The fifteen 4-H youth participating in this agriculture tour were selected on the basis of their past achievements in 4-H and communities, says Delin Sheehan, 4-H summer exchange coordinator at Airdrie. The delegates were selected at 4-H selections held at Olds College on May 6.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

4-H'ers tour Alberta's agricultural developments (cont'd)

The fifteen 4-H youth are: Stephanie Haupt of Medicine Hat, Wendi Holthe of Turin, Anita Malyk of Airdrie, Lorraine Wrubleski of New Sarepta, Kim Rutley of Didsbury, Fred Brink of Bentley, Michelle Gottenbos of St. Brides, John Trenson of Rimbey, Iain MacDougall of Champion,Brad Halwa of south Edmonton, Leah Dick of Westlock, Lori Simon of Bow Island, Keith Taylor of Westlock, Shelly Ann Werenka of Sangudo, and Kevin Ellis of Standard.

The two 4-H leaders participating are Gregory Schroeder and Mary Schroeder of Coronation. Adele Reichert, regional 4-H specialist at Vermilion and her husband John McKechnie, will also be participating.

The Alberta 4-H group will be on an agriculture oriented tour of Alberta. Some of their highlights will include tours of Money's Mushrooms, Western Breeders, Olds College, Lambco, Byer's Flour Mill, NADP, Alberta Honey Producers Co-op and Fairview College.

In the Northwest Territories the group will stop at Yellowknife, Fort Smith, Rae and Edzo.

Alberta Agriculture has sponsored 4-H members on the Alberta-Northwest Territories agriculture development tour since 1974. The 1985 tour has been designed to create agricultural awareness of Alberta and the Northwest Territories. This educational camping experience will allow the delegates to learn more about themselves and the agricultural background of the province they live in. The group will conclude their tour in Edmonton on Monday, August 12.

- 30 -

Contact:

Delin Sheehan
948-5101

August 5, 1985

For immediate release

Custom crop seeding charges in 1985

The rates charged for custom crop seeding in Alberta increased between 1984 and 1985 according to an annual survey conducted in June, 1985 by Alberta Agriculture's statistics branch in cooperation with the farm business management branch.

Gerd Andres of the farm business management branch says that charges for custom seeding are fairly uniform throughout Alberta, although they very according to circumstances. Such factors include the size of the field being seeded, the crop being sown (cereals, oilseeds or grasses) and other operations that may be included during the same pass over the field (application of fertilizer or herbicide, for example).

The following table summarizes the results of the 1985 survey and compares them with last year's rates.

Crop seeding charges per acre

	Most Common 1984	Range 1985	Most Common 1985
Fixed wing	$3.50-$4.50	$3.00-$5.00	$3.25-$4.75
Helicopter	$2.50*	$3.00-$5.00	$3.00-$5.00
Air seeder	$4.00-$5.75	$3.50-$6.50	$6.00-$6.50
Seed drill	$4.00-$5.50	$5.50-$6.50	$6.50

*One report only

Further information on custom seeding charges and other custom operation charges can be obtained from district agriculturists, the statistics branch in Edmonton or the farm business management branch in Olds.

- 30 -

Contact:

Gerd Andres
556-4247

For immediate release

Alberta Smoky saskatoons — a savory success

Wild saskatoons have been eaten on the prairie for centuries. The Indians used them extensively in preparation of pemmican and the early settlers found them a welcome treat.

Today, wild saskatoons are still considered a treat by many who remember their unique flavor and texture. But for those who don't share this love of the tart, wild berry, new commercially-grown strains have been developed.

Superior strains such as Smoky have been selected from native fruit and developed at Agriculture Canada's research station at Beaverlodge and at the Alberta Horticultural Research Center at Brooks. The Smoky, a large sweet deep-purple variety, is very productive, easy to cultivate and can be mechanically harvested using a blueberry harvester.

The Smoky variety appears to be enjoying both popularity and prestige. "During the Queen Mother's visit to Edmonton, Smoky saskatoons were served at three official functions," says Lorraine Rea, crops and horticulture officer with Alberta Agriculture.

Two Alberta growers are now exploring different ways to market their Smoky saskatoons. Paulovich Farms at Manning is selling its special saskatoon jelly and syrup at selected Alberta stores under the brand name White Blossom Berry Farms, and Medicine River Farms at Carstairs is also producing saskatoon syrup.

Commercial farms throughout Alberta are thriving with large numbers of Smoky saskatoon lovers signing up for picking.

John Grant, president of the Fruit Growers Society of Alberta, reports commercial saskatoon production in the Grande Prairie area will have reduced yields due to early frost, a hard winter and a lack of irrigation. "However, interest has increased in saskatoons and enquiries have come from across Canada and the United States since we produced *The Fruit Grower,* a quarterly publication," he says.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta Smoky saskatoons – a savory success (cont'd)

Whether it's commercial or native fruit, the pamphlet, *Alberta Saskatoons, Homedex 1131-24-2,* will help you enjoy this fruit in many different and delicious ways. Write to the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Lorraine Rea – 427-7366

John Grant – 354-8454

August 5, 1985

For immediate release

Livestock nitrate poisoning

Cereals and canola are being put up for livestock feed in many areas in Alberta. Anyone harvesting cereal or oilseed crops this year for livestock feed is urgently advised to have the feed analyzed for nitrates, says Aubrey Sherman, head of forage and special crops at Alberta Agriculture's Lacombe office.

Livestock fed a forage with over 5 per cent nitrate will be affected by nitrate poisoning and higher nitrate contents will cause death.

The danger occurs with many of the cereal and oilseed crops which were highly fertilized with nitrogen and under drought conditions. The nitrate uptake of the plants is not converted to protein but remains as nitrate in the plant, explains Mr. Sherman.

Forage that tests high in nitrates can be diluted with straw or hay to bring the average percentage of nitrate down below the 5 per cent level.

- 30 -

Contact:

Aubrey Sherman
782-4641

August 5, 1985

For immediate release

4-H youth participate in operation enterprise

Operation Enterprise, a management and leadership program, is designed to help youth make career decisions and to give them a head start toward personal and career goals. The emphasis of the program is on realistic, practical concerns of both individual and organizational management, says Delin Sheehan, 4-H summer exchange coordinator at Airdrie.

Ten 4-H youth from across Alberta will have the opportunity to participate in this program. Nelson Lumber Company and Alberta Energy Company Limited are sponsoring these youth delegates, and are providing the funds for the program fees while Alberta Agriculture will be paying for their flight costs.

Delegates attending the Operation Enterprise Program this year are Trudy Kwasny of Waskatenau, Mark Pederson of Camrose, Carolyn Yates of Byemoor, Sheryl McClements of Viking, Mike Nichols of Castor, Sherrill Wrubleski of New Sarepta, Elizabeth Bilodeau of Vimy, Sherry Ternoster of Islay, Dinah Kendall of Lacombe, and Catherine Brown of Tofield.

The 4-H youth will be in attendance at the Operation Enterprise Program from August 8 to 17 at Langley, British Columbia on the site of Trinity Western College.

- 30 -

Contact:

Delin Sheehan
948-5101

August 5, 1985

For immediate release

Processed food consultant appointed

Dianne Hayward has been appointed processed food consultant with Alberta Agriculture's agricultural processing development branch. The appointment which was effective August 1, 1985 was announced by Gaylene Thomson, manager of the processed food development section.

Ms. Hayward, a native Albertan, has 10 years' experience with Alberta's food processing industry and has worked with Alberta Agriculture in the areas of marketing and extension services. She has also worked with the Commonwealth Research Institute and Technical Colleges in Australia in food research, education and promotion.

In her present position, Ms. Hayward will be involved in hands-on activity with the Alberta food industry. This includes planning new food development, packaging and promotion, as well as assisting industry identify short and long term marketing opportunities.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dianne Hayward
427-4036

August 5, 1985

For immediate release

Cereal plot field day at Calmar

An Alberta Agriculture cereal plot field day will be held at Calmar on August 13 at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Jim Helm, plant breeder, will discuss new and present varieties of two and six row barley, spring and utility wheat and canola. The tour will provide a first hand look at the new barley varieties of Samson and Jackson as well as potential new semi-dwarf varieties.

The plots are located three miles north and a half mile west of Calmar. Complimentary refreshments will be served.

- 30 -

Contact:

Bill Chapman, regional crops specialist, 674-8258

Elmer Bittner or Janette MacDonald-Adam, 986-2251

August 5, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta sunflower tour

An Alberta sunflower tour will take place on August 9, 1985 at 1:00 p.m. at the Tom Droog farm located seven miles south of highway No.3 on the Foremost highway.

The tour will include a look at dryland sunflowers, several sunflower variety trials, disease trials and a tour of the Bow Island alfalfa dehydration plant.

To pre-register contact Dave Cubbon at 545-2233 or Tom Droog at 545-2560.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dave Cubbon – 545-2233

Tom Droog – 545-2560

AGRI-NEWS

AL 1.69

CANADIANA
C 7
AUG 27 1985

August 12, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Crop insurance modifications to retain feed in drought areas. 1

Feed and Forage Exchange locations. 4

Alberta Grasshopper Control Assistance Program now underway. 5

Mobile slaughter legalized 7

New Alberta sprouts publication 9

Alberta 4-H'ers attend Danforth Leadership Camp. 10

Partial chlorination filtration can save you money. 12

Buy only knapweed-free hay. 14

Wild rice field day 15

Crops of Alberta demonstration. 17

High Prairie Alberta Agriculture office in new location. 18

Correction. 19

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

August 12, 1985

For immediate release

Crop insurance modifications to retain feed in drought areas

Alberta Agriculture Minister LeRoy Fjordbotten and Don Sparrow, Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife announced on July 31, 1985 additional provincial assistance for Alberta's drought-stricken agricultural producers. These initiatives are the latest in a series of programs being implemented by the province to counteract the effects of extended dry weather on the farming industry.

The most prominent of the new provincial assistance measures are temporary revisions to guidelines for crop insurance payments by the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation.

Guidelines for crop insurance payments and programs will be temporarily revised to encourage producers to cut as much drought-affected crop as possible for feed.

Under the new guidelines, if a producer wishes to cut the crop for feed and estimates that his yield is less than 5 bushels per acre for wheat, less than 6.2 bushels per acre for barley, less than 8.7 bushels per acre for oats and equivalent amounts for other crops, the crop will be treated as a full write-off by the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation.

However, before a crop is cut, producers must contact the corporation. As soon as possible, the corporation will send out an adjuster or request that a strip of crop be left for later adjustment.

If the producer wishes to graze the crop, prior adjustment will be necessary.

In the case of wheat for example, if the crop yields more than 5 bushels per acre, a

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Crop insurance modifications to retain feed in drought areas (cont'd)

graduated adjustment will be made up to a maximum yield of 7 bushels per acre. From that point on, normal coverage guidelines will apply. Normal coverage levels and minimums will also apply if a crop is harvested for grain or abandoned.

The temporary revisions will be retroactive to July 1, 1985 and will include all crops released for feed purposes. The corporation will be making this allowance to claims already received.

The minister indicated federal government assistance will be requested to help cover the estimated $10 million cost of these temporary revisions. He also stated, "I am especially pleased with the Alberta approach to crop insurance because it promises to boost feed supplies, but still leaves producers room to manoeuvre around the new minimum, because growing conditions could still affect potential yields."

The minister also noted that several other approaches to increasing or improving feed supplies in Alberta are being initiated.

These include upgrading the feed forage exchange system run by the Alberta Grain Commission to provide more up-to-date information to buyers and sellers.

Don Sparrow, Associate Minister of Public Lands and Wildlife has agreed that the public lands division of his department will continue with the policy announced last year whereby grazing lessees will be encouraged to accommodate cattle from the drought area if they have any surplus grazing capacity on their leases. The public lands division will assist by providing the Department of Agriculture with a list of grazing lessees who they believe may have extra forage available on their leases. In addition, the public lands division will immediately review all grazing reserves to insure that any grass which is surplus to the needs of patrons is cut and baled under hay permit so it will be available for use this winter.

- (cont'd) -

Crop insurance modifications to retain feed in drought areas (cont'd)

Mr. Fjordbotten also stated that further representations are being made to Charles Mayer, Minister Responsible for the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB), to ascertain CWB intentions for providing adequate feed grain supplies in western Canada.

The minister also stated that producers should be prepared to take whatever action is necessary to protect crops and livestock. This would include baling of straw after harvest and possibly collecting crop residue for processing through dehy plants as pelletized livestock feed.

"I would also emphasize to producers that the threat of serious soil erosion in drought-stricken regions is becoming very great," said Mr. Fjordbotten. "It is imperative that farmers do not till their fields unless absolutely necessary, and I would strongly urge that producers consider seeding a cover crop."

- 30 -

Contact:

Ron Weisenburger
Head, Beef Cattle and Sheep Branch
Alberta Agriculture
Edmonton, Alberta
(403) 427-5083

Ed Patching
General Manager
Alberta Hail & Crop Insurance
(403) 782-4661

Murray Turnbull
Director
Land Management & Development
Energy & Natural Resources
(403) 427-3498

August 12, 1985

For immediate release

Feed and Forage Exchange Locations

For some years, the Alberta Grain Commission has operated a Feed and Forage Exchange in eight Alberta centres: Airdrie, Edmonton, Fairview, Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Red Deer and Vermilion. The exchange is being updated to increase the flow of information from buyer to seller and to facilitate more efficient marketing of hay. Exchange phone numbers are listed below. Connection is available free of charge to all Albertans, anywhere in the province, by contacting your local RITE system operator.

Airdrie	948-5727
Edmonton	427-7331
Fairview	835-2228
Grande Prairie	532-1426
Lethbridge	328-7721
Medicine Hat	527-7555
Red Deer	340-5303
Vermilion	853-5313

- 30 -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

August 12, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Grasshopper Control Assistance
Program now underway

The Alberta Grasshopper Control Assistance program, developed to assist Alberta farmers reduce the cost of controlling one of the worst grasshopper infestations in years, is now accepting applications.

Eligible applicants will be paid a grant covering 50 per cent of the cost of insecticide used for grasshopper control. To be eligible, an applicant must be a resident of Alberta and farm in Alberta.

Eligible insecticides are Sevin XLR, Furadan, Decis, Dimethoate, Malathion, Lorsban, Hopper Stopped, Counter 15G, Diazinon, Monitor, Methoxychlor, Guthion.

The insecticide must have been purchased from a licensed dealer or applicator and must have been purchased, paid for in full and used only for control of grasshoppers between January 1, 1985 and November 30, 1985.

All applicants must be accompanied by invoices showing the name of the applicant, name of dealer or applicator, date of purchase, name(s) and quantity of insecticide purchased, and that the insecticide has been paid in full. Invoices must be originals; carbon copies or non-carbon reproductions. Photocopies of invoices are not acceptable.

Applicants' invoices will be photocopied at Alberta Agriculture district offices or participating municipal offices and originals returned to the applicant.

An applicant can only make one application under this program. Applicants must

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch
Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta Grasshopper Control Assistance
Program now underway (cont'd)

declare the quantity of insecticide either returned to the dealer or not used during the program period. Therefore all transactions must be complete before applying.

Application forms and program condition brochures are available from district agriculturists or participating municipal offices (Counties, etc.). Completed applications must be submitted to these offices not later than November 30, 1985.

For further information contact your district agriculturist.

- 30 -

August 12, 1985

For immediate release

Mobile slaughter legalized

Recent amendments to the meat inspection regulations provide for the establishment of businesses known as mobile butchers. "Under the terms of these regulations, any producer is allowed to slaughter his own animals for his own use," says Dr. George Summers, head of meat hygiene with Alberta Agriculture.

The new amendments allow mobile butchers to travel from farm to farm and assist farmers with this slaughter. Most mobile butchers have a processing facility available where they can take the animal slaughtered for the farmer for processing, packaging and freezing. All meat packages from animals slaughtered in this way must be stamped by the processor **Uninspected Not for Sale**. It continues to be illegal to sell uninspected meat in Alberta, Dr. Summers stresses.

To qualify for the privilege of operating as a mobile butcher, an individual must write a letter to the Minister of Agriculture indicating his desire to carry out this business. He must also agree to report information on his business activities on a regular basis. Individuals who wish to take advantage of this program should contact one of the following people:

Mr. Tony Taylor, Meat Hygiene office, Edmonton	436-9340
Mr. Barry Stevens, Meat Hygiene office, Stettler	742-4481
Mr. Owen Munchrath, Meat Hygiene office, Airdrie	948-6868
Mr. Mel Willis, Meat Hygiene office, Lethbridge	329-5179
Mr. Ken Pratt, Meat Hygiene office, Vermilion	853-2811
Mr. Del Banack, Meat Hygiene office, Grande Prairie	539-2121

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Mobile slaughter legalized (cont'd)

These individuals have a form letter which is forwarded to the minister's office indicating a person's intention to operate as a mobile butcher. They also have the forms which the mobile butcher must complete and return, thus reporting their slaughter activities each week.

Animals slaughtered by mobile butchers on farms will not be inspected by the meat hygiene branch and neither the mobile butcher nor the producer is eligible for any of the benefits of inspection provided by the meat hygiene branch.

Producers who use the services of mobile butchers must also provide a brand manifest to accompany the slaughtered carcass to the location where it will be processed. If the meat remains on the farm of origin, no manifest is required.

Mobile butchers who fail to register under this program are liable for prosecution under The Meat Inspection Act and those who fail to report their activities on a regular basis are subject to suspension of permission to operate a business as a mobile butcher.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. George Summers
436-9343

August 12, 1985

For immediate release

New Alberta sprouts publication

Sprouts, the germinated seeds of grains and legumes, are the topic of a new Alberta Agriculture pamphlet.

Produced by the agri-food development branch to assist Alberta's burgeoning sprout industry, the pamphlet shows how to use sprouts in a variety of interesting ways ranging from whole grain salad to egg fu yung.

Alberta's seven sprout companies which grow bean, alfalfa and mixed (alfalfa, clover, lentil, and radish) sprouts are finding a ready market for their versatile product.

The Alberta sprout growers find that today there is more interest in fresh, natural foods. As a low-calorie, highly-nutritious food, available at most retail outlets, sprouts are one of the most popular.

Alberta Sprouts, Homedex 1131-13-4, is available from Alberta sprout companies, district home economists and the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Lorraine Rea
427-7366

August 12, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta 4-H'ers attend Danforth Leadership Camp

L to R: Scott Severtson, Walter Wrubleski, Cheron Beaton, Don Hulthom.

Two 4-H youths, Cheron Beaton of Raymond and Scott Severtson of Innisfail, are now attending the Danforth Leadership Camp, reports Delin Sheehan, 4-H summer exchange coordinator at Airdrie. The international leadership program, which began on August 5 and ends on August 17, is held at Camp Miniwanca near Shelby, Michigan.

The two-week program helps 4-H delegates deal with decision making, self-understanding, communication, personal leadership style and responsibility. Information is presented through workshops, speakers, seminars and recreational activities.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta 4-H'ers attend Danforth Leadership Camp (cont'd)

Beaton and Severtson were chosen to attend this program at 4-H selections held at Olds in May. They were selected on the basis of leadership qualities and community and 4-H involvement.

- 30 -

Contact:

Delin Sheehan
948-5101

August 12, 1985

For immediate release

Partial chlorination filtration can save you money

The amount of water required for domestic use is usually small and can be chlorinated at a low cost. However, where a large amount of water is also required for watering livestock or irrigating gardens, the cost of chlorinating all the water can be high, says Archie Archampong, water engineer with Alberta Agriculture.

"With partial chlorination filtration only a portion of the water is chlorinated, resulting in a significant cost savings," says Mr. Archampong.

Iron exists in well water as a dissolved clear mineral (ferrous iron). When ferrous iron is exposed to air it's oxidized to red or brown insoluble particles (ferric iron). The ferric iron particles will settle to the bottom if given sufficient time. In chlorination filtration systems, chlorine is added to the water to speed up conversion of ferrous iron to ferric iron. The insoluble ferric particles are removed by a sand filter and the unused portion of the chlorine is removed by a carbon filter. Chlorination filtration systems are used to remove iron in the 8 to 14 milligrams per litre range which is above the practical limits of conventional iron filters.

In a field demonstration conducted at a farm near Grimshaw, staff of Alberta Agriculture installed equipment to show the process of partial chlorination filtration. The standard chlorination filtration design was modified by adding an extra pressure tank, a flow control valve (dole valve) and a solenoid valve. The additional cost is about $150 over a standard chlorination filtration design, says Mr. Archampong.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Partial chlorination filtration can save you money (cont'd)

The Grimshaw farmer required 680 gallons per day for cleaning his milking parlor and 1000 gallons per day for watering the cows. Only the cleaning tank had to be iron-free. It took $0.85 per day to treat the cleaning water with chlorine compared to $1.25 per day to treat all the required water. Mr. Archampong reports, "This savings of $0.40 per day amortizes the cost of modification within one year of installation and the service life of the carbon filter is prolonged."

For information and assistance on partial chlorination filtration systems, contact your regional engineering technologist or district agriculturist. Alberta Agriculture's publication, *Iron Removal by Chlorination and Filtration, Agdex 716 (D34)*, also provides useful information on the subject.

- 30 -

Contact:

Archie Archampong
427-2181

August 12, 1985

For immediate release

Buy only knapweed-free hay

With the increased movement of hay across Alberta's borders as a result of this summer's drought, it's important that producers ensure their deliveries are free of knapweed. Knapweed is a restricted weed in Alberta.

Shaffeek Ali of Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch says, "We recommend that farmers do not accept delivery of knapweed-infested hay."

To avoid getting hay that's infested with knapweed, know where the hay is coming from and buy only from a reputable producer.

As a further measure, farmers can ask their district agriculturist to call agriculture representatives in Montana or British Columbia who can verify whether or not hay being sent into Alberta is knapweed-free.

- 30 -

Contact:

Shaffeek Ali
427-5324

August 12, 1985

For immediate release

Wild rice field day

The Northern Alberta Wild Rice Association and Alberta Agriculture are jointly sponsoring a wild rice harvesting field day on Wednesday, August 28 at 1:00 p.m.

The demonstration will provide growers with an opportunity to view both private and commercially available wild rice harvesters, says Harvey Yoder, district agriculturist at Lac La Biche. The harvesters will be demonstrated on Jackfish Lake, where wild rice has been grown for the past three years. As well, there will be seeding demonstrations using both manual and mechanical methods of seeding.

Experienced growers will be on hand to provide information and answer questions for new producers. John Kienholz of Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch will also be there to offer advice and suggestions to producers who are planning to build their own harvesting and seeding equipment.

There will be various displays on weeds affecting wild rice production, uses and recipes for wild rice, and displays on the various growth stages of wild rice.

The field day will bgin at the Parkview Community Hall located east of Athabasca. To get there, travel four miles east of the Athabasca townsite on highway 55 to the airport sign and the turn north two miles to the community hall. **Watch for signs.**

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Wild rice field day (cont'd)

The association will hold their annual meeting on the same day beginning at 10:00 a.m. Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. If you are interested in attending the field day please contact the office at Lac La Biche, telephone 623-5219. The cost of the field day is $5 which covers coffee and lunch.

- 30 -

Contact:

Harvey Yoder
623-5219

August 12, 1985

For immediate release

Crops of Alberta demonstration

This year, Alberta Agriculture's crop protection branch established plots illustrating the diversity of crops and varieties grown in Alberta. These plots are now open to the public and you're invited to stroll through them at your leisure.

"The purpose of this demonstration is to create a visual image so that comparisons can be made between crop species," says Rodney Kusiek, crop demonstrate coordinator.

The plots feature recommended varieties as well as some historical and ancestoral varieties. All are labelled with brief descriptions of the crop and its use.

The plots are located south of the J.G. O'Donoghue Building, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

- 30 -

Contact:

Rodney Kusiek
427-5314

August 12, 1985

For immediate release

High Prairie Alberta Agriculture Office in new location

Alberta Agriculture's office in High Prairie is in a "temporary" temporary location as a result of the fire in the Provincial Building on July 24, 1985.

They will be located in the basement of the Elks Hall for five or six weeks until more permanent temporary arrangements can be made. The new phone number is 523-3220.

The Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation Office (phone 523-3258) will be housed in the same location as Alberta Agriculture.

- 30 -

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Correction: In Agri-News, August 5, 1985, the article entitled *Livestock nitrate poisoning*, should have read: Livestock fed a forage with over **0.5** per cent nitrate will be affected by nitrate poisoning and higher nitrate contents will cause death.

Forage that tests high in nitrates can be diluted with straw or hay to bring the average percentage of nitrate down below the **0.5** per cent level.

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

AL.1.691

AGRI-NEWS

SEP 9 1985

August 19, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Alberta Crop Insurance Coverage Restoration Program announced. 1

Temporary emergency water supply program supplements. 4

Conditions favorable for preconditioning 6

Dairy science student wins scholarship. 8

Feeding straw to beef cows. 10

Alberta horse breeds displayed at Spruce Meadows. 13

New publication on planning farm workshops. 15

Sarcoptic mange in cattle. 16

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

August 19, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta Crop Insurance Coverage Restoration Program announced

Alberta Premier Peter Lougheed and Alberta Agriculture Minister LeRoy Fjordbotten on August 14, 1985 announced that crop insurance policyholders whose coverage has been or will be reduced as a result of claims in 1984 and 1985 will have their insurance coverage restored to levels effective on January 1, 1984.

Further refinements to the (Temporary) Revised Crop Insurance Guidelines announced on July 31, 1985 will also be made.

These initiatives, worth an estimated $75 million to $95 million over the next two years, are the latest in a series of measures being implemented by the Province to counteract the effects of extended dry weather on the farming industry. Currently, producers throughout the province are suffering the effects of a drought that is considerably more widespread than in 1984.

In announcing the initiatives, Mr. Fjordbotten stated, "While crop insurance is intended to protect producers against many different conditions, including drought, the abnormally dry conditions facing our producers, some for the third consecutive year, are imposing hardship far beyond that which crop insurance was expected to handle.

"This is an exceptional situation, and, in our opinion, without further temporary bolstering of our crop insurance program, many Alberta producers will suffer lasting damage," said the minister.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta Crop Insurance Coverage Restoration Program announced (cont'd)

The Alberta Crop Insurance Coverage Restoration Program will ensure producers who would have received reduced protection due to drought conditions in 1984 and 1985 will continue to enjoy normal coverage for 1985 and 1986.

Under the Canada-Alberta Crop Insurance Agreement, coverage for policy holders may be increased or decreased by up to 30 per cent of the basic level, according to the holder's claims history.

Instead of modifiying the Crop Insurance Program, the province will temporarily increase its contribution to the crop insurance premium pool to help restore coverage to producers at levels they had prior to the dry weather of the last two growing seasons.

All crop insurance policy holders will be eligible for this benefit. The adjustment is expected to allow significantly larger claims payments to many hundreds of policyholders in 1985, and to a much larger number in 1986.

The program, effective September 1, 1985, is estimated to cost $20 million to $30 million in 1985-86 and $30 million to $50 million in 1986-87.

The minister also announced refinements to the (Temporary) Crop Insurance Guidelines announced July 31. Those changes were intended to encourage producers to cut as much drought-affected crop as possible for feed. The benefits were limited to crops cut for feed purposes.

Under the new revisions, crops harvested for grain or oilseed will also be treated as full write-offs by the Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation, if they yield less than five bushels per acre for wheat or an equivalent amount for other crops.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta Crop Insurance Coverage Restoration Program announced (cont'd)

Before a crop is cut, producers must contact the corporation. As soon as possible, the corporation will send out an adjuster or request that a strip of crop be left for later adjustment.

For crops yielding more than five bushels per acre, a graduated adjustment will be made to a maximum yield of seven bushels per acre. For this and higher yields, normal coverage guidelines will apply.

Commenting on the revisions, Mr. Fjordbotten stated, "I think these expanded guidelines permit producers full flexibility in deciding how best to handle crops which have been affected by this summer's drought. Producers need options, and we are doing our best to ensure they have them."

The minister also indicated that federal assistance will be requested to help cover the estimated $15 million cost of the temporary crop insurance revisions. Prior to including crops harvested for grain and oilseeds, the program cost had been estimated at $10 million.

All aspects of the temporary revised guidelines will be effective for the 1985-86 crop year.

-30-

Contact:

Ed Patching
Chairman
Alberta Hail and Crop Insurance Corporation
Phone:(403) 782-4661

August 19, 1985

For immediate release

Temporary emergency water supply program supplements

On July 31, 1985, Environment Minister Fred Bradley announced a $1.75 million program to assist bonafide farmers and ranchers to complete farm wells affected by the current drought and to assist in the construction of deeper, more drought-resistant wells. This is a supplement to the previously announced Temporary Emergency Water Supply Program.

Farm well completion supplement

Alberta Environment currently provides a grant under the water well testing program, which covers almost all the costs of drilling a test well.

"I am pleased to announce a further grant of $2.70 per foot up to a depth of 250 feet for completed farm wells," stated Mr. Bradley. The combination of assistance provided by the water well testing program and the farm well completion supplement will cover approximately one-third of the costs of completing a well to a depth of 250 feet and is approximately equivalent to the assistance available from PFRA for completion of farm wells.

Deep farm well completion supplement

To encourage construction of deeper, more drought resistant wells, Alberta Environment will provide a further grant of $6.70 per lineal foot for each additional foot in excess of the initial 250 feet to the depth of completion. This increased grant coupled with the grant under the Water Well Testing Program will cover approximately 50 per cent of the costs of completing a well deeper than 250 feet.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Temporary emergency water supply program supplements (cont'd)

"These additional measures are a direct response to the severe drought conditions and the hardships faced by our farmers and ranchers in Alberta," Mr. Bradley said.

The announcement of this program combined with the Temporary Emergency Water Supply Program announced on July 19 will provide a total of $8.25 million to assist farmers, ranchers and communities to secure water for domestic and stockwatering purposes as a result of the drought.

This new initiative will be retroactive to April 1, 1985 and will be in effect until March 31, 1986. Application forms will be available from district agriculturists throughout Alberta.

- 30 -

Contact:

Drought Emergency Response Centre
Calgary, Alberta
297-6270 (collect)

August 19, 1985

For immediate release

Conditions favorable for preconditioning

The outlook for the Alberta certified preconditioned feeder program for this fall is good according to Dr. Terry Church, head of Alberta Agriculture's health management branch.

Weaning their calves early and preconditioning is one option producers can consider when pastures are limited. Feeding calves roughage and grain will save what forage is available for the breeding herd. Beef cows also regain their body condition much more quickly when the calves are weaned.

"The Alberta preconditioning program nearly doubled in numbers last year and preconditioned sales are increasing in other provinces," reports Dr. Church. The increase in numbers of preconditioned calves has resulted in increased buyer demand for this high quality product.

Preconditioning gives the calf producer several benefits:

1) increased net returns for their calves
2) greater market flexibility
3) better utilization of fall pastures and improved body condition of the cows
4) reputation for a quality product in the feedlot

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Conditions favorable for preconditioning (cont'd)

There will be no changes in the Alberta preconditioning program this year. Calf producers will still be eligible to receive one paid veterinary visit per year to a maximum of three years. Eartags, certificates and information will be available through Alberta Agriculture district offices and from veterinary clinics throughout Alberta.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dr. Terry Church
436-9345

August 19, 1985

For immediate release

Dairy science student wins scholarship

Mark Cameron of Crossfield is the recipient of the Alberta Dairymen's Association and Alberta Agriculture scholarship for 1985.

Mark, who also received this scholarship in 1983 and 1984, is entering the second year of the M.Sc. program in dairy science at the University of Illinois. He obtained his B.Sc. in dairy science at California Polytechnic State University.

Mark was a 10 year member of the C.D.C. 4-H dairy club. His involvement with 4-H continues, as he has coached Alberta 4-H judging teams for the past three years for the provincial competition. In Illinois, he assisted the 4-H division of the Illinois dairy club at their spring dairy judging contest. Mark is also a member of the American Dairy Science Association.

The Alberta Dairymen's Association and Alberta Agriculture scholarship is a $3,000 scholarship awarded annually to a student doing postgraduate work or entering the third year of a degree in dairy husbandry.

- (cont'd)

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Dairy science student wins scholarship (cont'd)

For more information on 4-H scholarships in Alberta, please contact your regional 4-H specialist, district home economist or write to: 4-H Scholarship Program, 4-H Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

August 19, 1985

For immediate release

Feeding straw to beef cows

With harvest underway, many cattlemen are looking behind the combine for a source of low cost feeds to overwinter dry cows. Dave Plett, ruminant nutritionist with Alberta Agriculture, has a few tips and points to consider if you plan to use cereal straw as a portion of your beef herd rations this fall.

Good quality barley or oat straw will average about 4.5 per cent crude protein and a digestible energy concentration of 0.8 Mcal per pound. Wheat straw is generally poorer at about 4 per cent crude protein and digestible energy of 0.75 Mcal per pound. As a dry cow requires a ration of 8 to 10 per cent protein and energy concentration of about 1 Mcal per pound, even if the cow eats as much as she can, she cannot get her daily requirement from straw alone. Supplementing straw-based rations with good quality hay, grain, or a supplement is essential to maintain body weight and production, says Mr. Plett.

Because of the bulky nature of straw, cows can only eat about 15 pounds per day; less if wheat straw or low quality barley and oat straw is fed, and slightly more if the straw is ground and fed mixed with grain and/or supplements.

The key to using straw to maintain cow condition during the dry period is to lower the cow's nutrient requirements prior to winter. Early weaning, creep feeding of calves, feeding additional grain, vitamin A, and phosphorus on late pasture are all means of improving cow condition prior to winter feeding. Cows entering winter in good condition need to gain less and hence feed requirements are not as great during the dry period.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Feeding straw to beef cows (cont'd)

Treating straw piles covered in plastic with anhydrous ammonia to increase the protein and energy levels to meet most of the nutrient requirements of dry cows has recently gained interest. In times of high hay prices, the cost of plastic, ammonia and labor are offset by the value of feed produced by this method, says Mr. Plett.

Straw can be used either as a "filler" or as an integral portion of the ration mix. Here are a few examples of maintenance rations for 1100-pound beef cows, entering the winter in body condition score of 2.5.

Ration 1

5.5 lb rolled barley
free choice (15 lb) good quality straw
0.5 lb 32% beef supplement
Approximate cost/head/day - 72¢

Ration 2

7 lb rolled barley
12 lb good quality straw
Approximate cost/head/day - 69¢

Ration 3

5 lb brome hay
3.5 lb rolled barley
12 lb good quality barley straw
Approximate cost/head/day - 90¢

Ration 4

11 lb brome hay
11 lb good quality barley straw
0.05 lb range mineral (18% calcium, 18% phosphorus)

- (cont'd) -

Feeding straw to beef cows (cont'd)

Approximate cost/head/day - 77¢

Each ration would also need to be balanced for vitamins A, E and minerals.

Mr. Plett has some words of caution when using straw: "Sudden temperature drops can create an appetite surge in your cows that can result in them overeating and impacting their rumen with straw. Additional grain in extreme cold temperatures is a must. Secondly, cattlemen have a tendency to underestimate wastage. Feeding forages on the ground can easily amount to an overall feed loss of 20 per cent resulting in less intake by the animal."

Overall, monitoring cow condition and being prepared to act when necessary are small prices to pay when considering the benefits of using straw for feed throughout the fall and winter. By doing so you can save higher quality roughages for the critical pre-calving and calving season.

- 30 -

Contact:

Dave Plett
436-9150

August 19, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta horse breeds displayed at Spruce Meadows

Seventeen Alberta horse breed associations will participate in the Alberta Breeds for the World display at Spruce Meadows, Alberta, on September 10 to 15, 1985. Bob Coleman, Alberta Agriculture's horse specialist says all breed associations will have horses on display as well as an information booth.

Each day, there'll be a 30-minute, professionally-produced demonstration of horses in action. Ponies, cutting horses, colored horses, show horses, exotic horses, race horses, work horses and jumping horses will entertain and educate with a distinctive musical performance.

An important component of the display, which will occupy the entire Spruce Meadows riding hall, will be a series of daily, educational clinics on lunging, starting the yearling horse, and buying the right horse for pleasure riding. "The clinics should appeal to both novice and experienced horse owners," says Mr. Coleman.

The **Masters** horse show will have riders and teams from across Canada, the United States and Europe competing for approximately $500,000 of prize monies. The richest show jumping competition in the world, the **Masters** will feature the best teams and riders.

- (cont'd) -

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta horse breeds displayed at Spruce Meadows (cont'd)

Complementing the Masters and the Alberta Breeds for the World display will be Equitana North America, a trade fair featuring a wide variety of horse tack and equipment.

Last year, over 50,000 people visited the wide variety of attractions at Spruce Meadows.

- 30 -

Contact

Bob Coleman
427-8905 or 436-9150

August 19, 1985

For immediate release

New publication on planning farm workshops

Work benches that are piled a foot deep, engine stands that have to be dug out of a corner, and tools that never stay in a tool rack -- these are all symptoms of a farm workshop that isn't working.

Alberta Agriculture has introduced a new publication, which addresses the major reason for disorganized workshops -- lack of planning. Farm Workshops discusses many of the details which will make a workshop safe, organized and functional.

The 60-page publication contains more than 100 engineering drawings and photos of Alberta workshops. It illustrates features found in many of the best planned farm shops in the province.

The publication contains recommendations on site selection, shop layout, building size and shape, floors and foundations, insulation and heating, doors and interior finishing, lighting, ventilation and utilities, and safety and shop equipment. In addition, the floor plan and layout of two well-planned Alberta shops are featured.

Copies of Farm Workshops, Agdex 780-1, is available from the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Wendy McLeod
427-2181

August 19, 1985

For immediate release

Sarcoptic mange in cattle

Sarcoptic mange, or barn itch in cattle, is a disease caused by the parasite mite, *Sarcoptes scabiei*. Mange produced by this mite is one of the most serious types because the mite burrows deeply in the skin, causing intense itching, and it may be transferred from infested wild or domestic animals to man, says Murray Kennedy, parasitologist with Alberta Agriculture's animal health division. Fortunately, it is not common in cattle of Alberta.

Cattle in poor condition are most susceptible to infection. Overcrowding cattle and poor nutrition favor Sarcoptes outbreaks. Infections may become established when infected replacement animals are added to a herd. Infestations are generally more common during the fall and winter months.

Sarcoptic mange in cattle is a federally reportable disease. Your local subdistrict veterinarian, Agriculture Canada, must be notified when it has been diagnosed in your herd.

A new Alberta Agriculture factsheet, *Sarcoptic Mange in Cattle, Agdex 663-27* deals with how the infection is spread, how it harms cattle, its symptoms and how to treat it. It's available from Alberta Agriculture's district offices and the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Murray Kennedy
436-8904

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

CANADIANA

AGRI-NEWS

SEP 17 1985

Ag 1.691

August 26, 1985

For immediate release

This Week

Funding increased for feed grain market adjustment program 1

Alberta farmers to have red meat stabilization program 3

4-H dairy members receive scholarships 5

4-H dairy clubs in the spotlight 7

Build your own pollen trap 9

Chicken situation and outlook 11

Egg situation 13

Alberta 4-H beef breeding project shows finest 14

Feed and forage exchanges no longer operating 16

District agriculturist appointed at Ryley 17

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

August 26, 1985

For immediate release

Funding increased for feed grain market adjustment program

An additional $15 million was committed to the Alberta Feed Grain Market Adjustment program on August 15, increasing total funding for the program to $128 million over the next 21 months.

The new funding will be used to accommodate payments to producers for farm grown and fed grain. Previously, these producers were excluded from payments.

The adjustment program is designed to counteract the distortion in domestic feed grain pricing faced by livestock producers as a result of the Crow benefit. Under The Western Grain Transportation Act, the federal government pays the benefit directly to the railways, to the disadvantage of Alberta's livestock sector.

To neutralize this disadvantage, the provincial adjustment program will pay an amount equivalent to the Crow benefit on grain which used in livestock production in Alberta. The benefit, currently estimated at $21 per tonne, will accrue to Alberta's livestock producers as a result of transactions between buyer and seller.

Mr. Fjordbotten emphasized that market prices for grain will not change, but stockmen should see improved profit margins. For example, if grain is priced at $100 per tonne, stockmen or feed merchants will pay $79 in cash, then present the grain producer with a certificate for the remaining $21. This certificate can be immediately exchanged by the grain producer for a cheque at Alberta Agriculture district offices.

(cont'd)

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Funding increased for feed grain market adjustment program (cont'd)

"This immediate exchange system should prevent cash-flow problems for grain producers arising from delays in claims processing," the minister added.

Payments on farm-fed grain will be issued quarterly or annually to producers, depending on the type of operation. As initial payments on farm-fed grain will cover the last four months of 1985, mixed farmers need not register for the program until December 1, 1985. Effective January 1, 1986, the program will process farm-fed claims every three months or annually, depending on the operation.

Details of the Alberta Feed Grain Market Adjustment program are available from Alberta Agriculture district offices.

- 30 -

Contact:

Don Scheer
427-6361

Frank Kehoe
427-2417

August 26, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta farmers to have red meat stabilization program

In 60 days, Alberta farmers will see a red meat stabilization plan in place, according to an announcement made by Premier Lougheed and agriculture minister, LeRoy Fjordbotten.

If the national program currently being negotiated isn't available to farmers by September 15, the minister is prepared to establish a provincial program. The cost of an Alberta red meat stabilization program is estimated at $62.7 million in fiscal 1985-86 and $61 million in 1986-87.

"If it's necessary for us to implement a provincial program, it would be consistent with the national proposal; the province would pay its one-third share of the premiums, as well as the federal government's one-third share," said the minister.

The Alberta program would retain the key principles of the national proposal. The program is intended to stabilize incomes during periods of low returns. There would be separate plans within the program to cover cow-calf, slaughter cattle, hogs and lambs. While there would be elements common to each plan, there would also be unique parts reflecting the different production and marketing conditions of each commodity. The plans have the support Alberta's cattle, hog and sheep industries.

(cont'd)

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Alberta farmers to have red meat stabilization program (cont'd)

Payments under the Alberta program would be retroactive to April 1, 1985 for hogs and slaughter cattle; March 1, 1985 for lambs and January 1, 1985 for cow-calf.

Applications for the program are expected to be available from Alberta Agriculture district offices by October 15, 1985.

- 30 -

Contact:

LeRoy Fjordbotten
Minister of Agriculture
427-2137

H.B. McEwen
Deputy Minister
427-2145

August 26, 1985

For immediate release

4-H dairy members receive scholarships

Angela Johnson

James Hummel

Angela Johnson of Didsbury and James Hummel of Nobleford are the winners of the central Alberta dairy pool scholarships for 1985.

This scholarship is awarded annually to first or second year students with a dairy background who are high achievers in 4-H. Preference is given to members whose families ship milk in central Alberta dairy pool production areas.

Angela Johnson was a member of the Mountain View 4-H dairy club from 1977 until 1984. She took part in provincial dairy shows every year and won a number of awards. She was on the 4-H premier's award list in 1984. Angela will study fashion merchandising at Olds College this fall.

(cont'd)

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

4-H dairy members receive scholarships (cont'd)

James Hummel has been a member of the Green Acres 4-H dairy club since 1977. He has also taken part in provincial dairy shows. James has been very active in public speaking and has won many awards. This fall he will be attending Dordt College at Sioux Centre, Iowa as a first year business student.

Thirty-five different scholarships with a total value of over $25,000 are awarded to past and present 4-H members annually. For more information contact your regional 4-H specialist, district home economist or write to: 4-H Scholarship Program, 4-H Branch, Alberta Agriculture, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

Elizabeth Webster
427-2541

August 26, 1985

For immediate release

4-H dairy clubs in the spotlight

Twenty-three of Alberta's 25 4-H dairy clubs were in attendance as the Westerner Exposition Association hosted the 1985 provincial 4-H dairy show and team judging contest, July 20 in Red Deer.

Top 4-H dairy judges, as well as top club showmen and exhibitors of club champion calves, yearlings and two-year olds, combined to provide a colorful and successful conclusion to the 1984-85 club year, says Elton Dunk, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist.

The morning judging contest saw Greg Thimer of Rollyview named top overall judge for the third year, followed by Kent Bienert from Millet. Top teams in the contest were also from Rollyview and Millet clubs respectively.

During the afternoon show, officially opened by Marg McPhee, president of the Westerner Exposition Association, and Harley Read, 1985 Premier's Award winner, there was stiff competition in all classes. Exhibiting the top calf was Lexi Wright from Mountain View 4-H Dairy Club, followed by Lenard Congdon of Bashaw. Kelly Wedman from the Millet club and Kurt Van Sickle from East Edmonton exhibited the champion and reserve champion yearlings respectively, while Jason Thimer of Rollyview and Jimmy Stannard of East Edmonton exhibited champion and reserve champion two-year olds. Grand champion showman was Beverly Congdon of Bashaw, followed by Greg Thimer of Rollyview. Supreme grand champion female of the show was exhibited by Jason Thimer of Rollyview, while reserve supreme grand champion was Lexi Wright's entry from the Mountain View 4-H Dairy Club.

(cont'd)

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

4-H dairy clubs in the spotlight (cont'd)

The top dairy herd was exhibited by the East Edmonton 4-H Dairy Club, and the Spruceview 4-H Dairy Club was recognized for their stall exhibit.

Coordinated by the 4-H branch of Alberta Agriculture, and co-sponsored by the Westerner Exposition Association, as well as numerous associations, private businesses, and individuals, the provincial 4-H dairy show has been a part of Alberta's 4-H program for 39 consecutive years.

- 30 -

Contact:

Elton Dunk
427-2541

August 26, 1985

For immediate release

Build your own pollen trap

A new publication from Alberta Agriculture describes how beekeepers can build their own pollen trap for about $15.

Based on the OAC (Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph) trap, the design described in the publication uses dados in place of the many pieces associated with the original trap.

"Provision for ventilation and the least possible obstruction to movement of foragers remain basic to the design," says John Kienholz with Alberta Agriculture's engineering branch.

The trap consists of:

- a deep bottom board
- a pollen drawer
- a bee excluder
- a pollen barrier
- upper and lower entrances
- drone escapes.

A detailed description and illustration of each of these parts is provided in the publication.

(cont'd)

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Build your own pollen trap (cont'd)

Copies of *Build Your Own Pollen Trap, Agdex 616-22*, are available from Don MacDonald, provincial apiculturist, Alberta Agriculture, Falher, Alberta, TOH 1MO; and the Publications Office, 7000-113 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6H 5T6.

- 30 -

Contact:

John Kienholz
427-2181

August 26, 1985

For immediate release

Chicken situation and outlook

A tightening of the surplus Canadian supply situation for chicken evident earlier this year is occurring as a result of continued gains in consumption, says David Walker, head of the market analysis branch with Alberta Agriculture. Apparent consumption of chicken meat in Canada during the second quarter increased by 12 per cent from year ago levels.

Canadian chicken meat production during the April to June quarter of 1985 was 14 per cent above year ago levels. This increase has displaced imports to some degree which were 29 per cent below 1984 levels.

Overall, the Canadian supply situation has tightened up somewhat since the spring. Continued increases in consumption are catching up with supplies and the industry is returning to a more balanced supply/demand situation.

Alberta production of chicken meat during the April to June period at 1.1 million kilograms was seven per cent above year earlier levels. This increase was mainly due to a six per cent increase in broiler meat production. Total supplies of chicken meat for the quarter were 13.4 million kilograms, six per cent above year earlier levels.

Supply pressures from eastern Canada caused larger than normal quantities of chicken meat to be shipped into Alberta, adversely affecting apparent consumption of the Alberta product. "The frequency and severity of this are likely to decline however," says Mr. Walker.

(cont'd)

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Print Media Branch

Phone: (403) 427-2121

Chicken situation and outlook (cont'd)

Prospects for the remainder of 1985 and early 1986 are for further gains in consumption, tightening of the supply situation and firming of prices.

- 30 -

Contact:

David Walker
427-7132

August 26, 1985

For immediate release

Egg situation

Both production and consumption of eggs at the national level has been relatively stable to date in 1985. Canadian egg gradings during the April to June 1985 quarter totalled 6.7 million boxes, marginally less than a year ago, reports Alberta Agriculture market analyst, David Walker.

In Alberta, production has declined as tighter control of existing quotas has been exercised by the provincial board. Provincial consumption of table eggs appears to have declined in recent months but this may reflect a trend towards restaurant and institutional (HRI) procurement through the breaker market.

Provincial egg production was supplemented by egg shipments into the province of 3.1 million dozen, 25 per cent above year ago levels. This increase in inward movement of eggs of about 630,000 dozen was partially offset, however, by an increase in out movements of about 480,000 dozen.

At the national level it's expected that demand for shell eggs will be relatively stable. It's apparent that what recovery there has been in the general provincial economy has not been reflected in increased table egg sales.

- 30 -

Contact:

David Walker
427-7123

August 26, 1985

For immediate release

Alberta 4-H beef breeding project shows finest

Where's the beef? The answer July 14 to 16 was Bashaw, as 42 4-H beef clubs from throughout Alberta took part in the ninth annual provincial 4-H beef heifer show and team judging contest.

The event, which was designed to promote and encourage involvement in the 4-H breeding project, enhances members' knowledge of showing, fitting, and judging beef cattle, says Elton Dunk, provincial 4-H agriculture specialist. A judging competition, involving 94 member competitors saw Leah Dick of Sunniebend and Shelly Ann Werenka of Sangudo taking first and second place honors respectively. Clubs also participated in team grooming, showmanship, and conformation classes during the three-day event.

The Raymond district team took top honors in team grooming followed by the St. Paul Multi Club. In the freshman and sophomore classes, combining points for showmanship ability as well conformation of the animal, there were 35 and 22 entries respectively.

In the showmanship classes, which had well over 100 entries, Susan Knight of Chestermere took top honors followed by Kerrie Werenka of Sangudo.

In the final day of competition there were 108 entries of purebred, recorded and crossbred classes. Supreme grand champion purebred as well as supreme reserve grand champion purebred, were animals exhibited by Cheron Beaton of the Raymond 4-H Beef Club. Supreme grand champion crossbred went to Robert Tymofichuk of the St. Paul 4-H Multi Club, followed by Luke Jones of the Okotoks 4-H Beef Club.

(cont'd)

Alberta
AGRICULTURE
Phone: (403) 427-2121
Print Media Branch

St. Paul emerged as top club in the herdsmanship competition for the fifth consecutive year, based on neatness and cleanliness of stall area, as well as conduct and attentiveness of members, reports Mr. Dunk.

Major sponsors of the provincial 4-H beef heifer show were the Bashaw Agricultural Society, CIBA-GEIGY of Canada Ltd., and Alberta Agriculture's 4-H branch.

- 30 -

Contact:

Elton Dunk
427-2541

August 26, 1985

For immediate release

Feed and forage exchanges no longer operating

The eight feed and forage exchanges operated by the Alberta Grain Commission are no longer in service. Instead, anyone wanting to buy or sell hay should contact their district agriculturist directly.

"We found that we were duplicating efforts and it was decided that the district agriculturists could facilitate the buying and selling of feed more efficiently," says Glen Binnington with the Alberta Grain Commission.

- 30 -

Contact:

Glen Binnington
427-7330

August 26, 1985

For immediate release

District agriculturist appointed at Ryley

Ty Faechner has been appointed district agriculturist at Ryley. The appointment which was effective July 23, 1985 was announced by R.F. (Ralph) Berkan, regional director at Vermilion.

Mr. Faechner graduated with distinction in 1974 from the University of Alberta with a B.Sc. in agriculture majoring in plant science. He obtained his M.Sc. in agriculture from the University of Alberta in 1979, again specializing in plant science.

Most recently, Mr. Faechner was the district agriculturist at Lac La Biche. He has also worked as a testing and instruction coordinator with Alberta Agriculture's green certificate program and as a training officer with the pesticide chemicals branch of Alberta Environment.

- 30 -

Contact:

Ty Faechner
663-3555